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City Council of Gibraltar

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

FOR THE YEAR

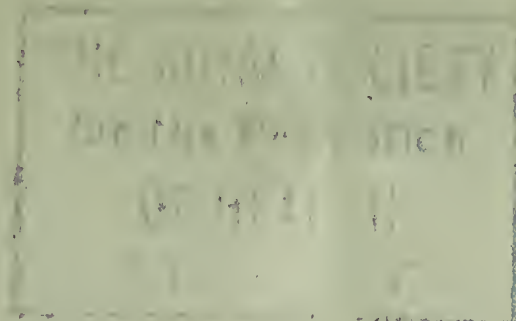
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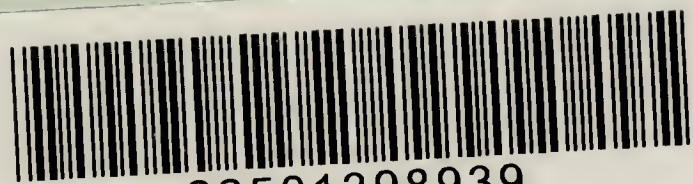
**JAMES A. DURANTE, O.B.E., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.).**

Medical Officer of Health,

**with which is included the Report of the City
Pathologist-Analyst.**



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†L. ORTEGA.

†E. J. MACEDO.

*Public Health Inspector's Certificate or Diploma.

†Certificate Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

xDiploma or Certificate in General Hygiene of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

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*H. G. TRIAY, Esq., O.B.E., M.D., Ch.B. (U. Edin.), D.C.H.,
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*C. A. ISOLA, Esq., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Dubl.), L.A.H. (Irel.).

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L.R.F.P.S. (Glasg.).

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J. C. CASSAGLIA, Esq., L.R.C.P. (Edin.), L.R.C.S. (Edin.),
L.R.F.P.S. (Glasg.).

District Nurses :

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Mrs. M. BANDA (Local Registered Nurse).

Visiting Dentists :

*A. A. DANINO, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

*J. J. COCHRANE, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

*Allowance paid to private practitioners as a retaining fee for their services.

ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

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The Assistant Director of Medical Services.

The Chief Medical Officer, Colonial Government.

The Medical Officer of Health.

The Royal Naval Representative.

The Royal Air Force Representative.

The Port Medical Officer.

Secretary:

J. L. Pitaluga, Esq.

Without health, wisdom is darkened,
art eclipsed, strength disabled, riches
worthless, and reason impotent.

Herophilus.

The health of the people is really the
foundation upon which all their happiness
and all their powers as a state depend.

Disraeli.

To His Worship the Mayor and Councillors
of the City of Gibraltar.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health of Gibraltar for the year 1959.

Though a severe epidemic of Measles together with minor outbreaks of Mumps and Whooping-Cough provided the highest incidence of the infectious diseases for the past fifteen years, the City has been free from the major epidemic diseases and the general health of the community may be considered to have been satisfactory throughout the year.

The prominent feature in the statistical field is the marked fall in infant deaths. Four children died before attaining the age of one year which represents an infant mortality of 10.81 per thousand live births and constitutes the lowest infant mortality rate ever recorded in the public health annals of Gibraltar.

It is well at this stage to view this development in the light of the past as depicted in the graph included in this Report which is based on the records for the past forty years. It shows that the average mortality for the quinquennium 1920-24 was 106.9 per thousand and that whilst there was some improvement during the following fifteen years, the average for the period 1935-39, verging on the onset of the second world war, was still 70.3 per thousand. The first substantial improvement occurred during the years 1945-1949 immediately following the repatriation of the population, when there occurred a dramatic fall in the loss of infant life, the average mortality recorded for that period being 36 per thousand. Since then with but for small fluctuations there has been a progressive decline during the past decennium to attain in the years 1955-59 the low average level of 17.05 per thousand. In other words, whereas forty years ago, 106 out of every 1,000 children born would not have been expected to survive one year and fifteen years later the corresponding figure was still as high as 70, on an average only 17 infants out of every thousand have died in early life during the past five years.

Though the influence of the decline in the virulence of the majority of the common infectious diseases and the progress made in the medical treatment of these and of gastro-enteritis which have been the great killers of infants in the past must be taken into consideration, the rapid strides which

notwithstanding great difficulties have been made in the provision of modern sanitary dwellings, the promotion of social welfare and the advancement of the preventive and curative medical services for the community since the repatriation of the population, may be regarded as the principal factors which have contributed to this achievement.

Notwithstanding that the birth rate, 15.37, proved the lowest since 1945, births outnumbered deaths by one hundred and seventy-four.

One hundred and ninety-six persons died during the year, which represents a death rate of 8.14 per thousand. These figures are identical to those recorded the previous year and maintain the low death rate established since the repatriation of the population.

Over sixty per cent of these deaths concerned persons over 65 years of age and were caused by diseases of the heart and circulation and by malignant tumours.

There was no significant change from the preceding year in the number of deaths caused by malignant tumours which provided the second highest cause of mortality, cancer of the lung in males again predominating as in past years.

It has now been established beyond reasonable doubt on statistical evidence that due to the presence of carcinogens in tobacco smoke, the smoking of tobacco particularly in the form of cigarettes is an important predisposing factor in the causation of lung cancer. Enough has been published in medical and lay journals to make the public aware of the danger entailed in indulging in this habit, but because of its being a long established social custom and because the detrimental effects are not immediately evident, the consumption of cigarettes continues unabated, in fact, in some places it appears to have increased. Whether the pleasure and solace derived from smoking compensate for the risk of eventually developing a serious, perhaps mortal disease, is purely a matter for each individual conscience, but everything possible should be done to discourage young people by education and persuasion during their school years from contracting a habit expensive to maintain and which must be considered a potential source of danger to health and life in the future.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis only caused one death, but there was an increase in the incidence compared with 1958 which indicates that though modern treatment has virtually deprived the disease of its terror as a cause of death, it is still a force to be reckoned with as a source of morbidity and disablement which cannot be regarded with complacency.

Though an unprecedented rise in the incidence of the common infectious diseases was caused by an epidemic of Measles and to a lesser extent by an outbreak of Mumps, the one disquieting feature is the increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria which though admittedly small must be viewed with concern vis-à-vis the insignificant number of children who are being immunized against the disease and which may well signify that coming events cast their shadows before them. I therefore make no apologies for again urging parents to avail themselves of the facilities which are at their disposal for the protection of their children against this treacherous disease.

Paralytic Poliomyelitis formerly known as Infantile Paralysis has fortunately been and remains up to the present comparatively uncommon in Gibraltar, but there is no guarantee that it will continue so, in fact, there are examples of other communities who have similarly enjoyed such freedom from this disease for generations which have for no accountable reason experienced visitations in epidemic form. In contrast with other infectious diseases the incidence of Paralytic Poliomyelitis appears to increase and not infrequently assume epidemic proportions *pari passu* with the rise in standards of living and hygiene, and it has frequently been observed that as the infantile mortality falls in a community the incidence of this enigmatic disease rises.

These considerations together with an increase in its prevalence reported in the neighbourhood with which our community is in intimate contact have led to the organization of a scheme for the free preventive inoculation of all children, expectant mothers and personnel of the medical services who may be exposed to infection. Vaccinations were started towards the end of the year, and it is gratifying to note that the acceptance rate has been considerable.

Housing still continues to be the most thorny problem facing the community. The past two years have seen the disappearance of a substantial proportion of nissen huts which were long past their useful lives even as temporary accommodation, and their replacement by blocks of modern flats, but notwithstanding the feverish rate of construction which has been going on for the past ten years there are still 1,212 families in the waiting list for accommodation. This figure under-estimates the real need for there are others who are living in old type insanitary houses which were it not for the critical position should be unhesitatingly condemned as unfit for human habitation.

The striving for priority in the waiting list and the multiplicity of reasons submitted for the purpose which have to be

sifted by those concerned with housing have to be seen to be believed, whilst the bewildering number of medical certificates tendered to obtain extra points often presents a problem when allocating available houses in judging between the needs of those who are well but whose health may suffer because of their unsatisfactory accommodation, and those who are already sick which would tax the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job.

However, considering the leeway which had to be made up much has been achieved in providing houses, and it is envisaged that in the not too distant future all nissen huts and other temporary dwellings will disappear thus eliminating unhygienic and offensive slums, but whether this will mean the end of overcrowding with a slowly but progressively increasing population and limited living space is a matter for conjecture.

Pollution of the atmosphere by smokes and gases is a subject that has come much to the fore in recent times, and in this respect, though our City is spared the perpetual blanketing by a smoke cloud which afflicts others, it is not without its minor troubles. Owing to the configuration of the Rock and the sloping character of a considerable proportion of available building sites, dwellings are of necessity erected on a stepped plan which together with the close knit pattern, the narrowness of our streets and the intermingling of workshops, bakeries and other such industrial premises with domestic dwellings not infrequently cause limited smoke nuisances which present problems most difficult to solve. Deflection of chimneys is seldom effective because Peter is often freed only to tax Paul. The demarcation of an industrial area would be the answer were the land available, but one district which has been reserved for such purposes is already being encroached upon considerably by domestic dwellings. Short of the use of electricity for all purposes whether domestic or industrial, an alluring hope which for economic reasons can at present only loom dim in the distant future, enforcement of the use of smokeless fuel provided it is available at a reasonable cost, would appear to be the one practical means of mitigating most nuisances.

Closely allied to this subject is the emanation of exhaust fumes from motor cars. The fantastic increase in the number of motor driven vehicles in the past few years has progressively increased the plight of pedestrians. Accidents are unlike in other places fortunately rare for the simple reason that even the most irresponsible will hesitate to speed up in our congested narrow streets, but the exhaust fumes, par-

ticularly those from diesel oil driven lorries and buses at times vitiate the air rendering it, to say the least, irritating and obnoxious. Adequate maintenance of engines which should be strictly enforced would go far towards eliminating these nuisances, otherwise we can only be grateful to our much maligned levanter winds which periodically sweep our streets clear of all offensive emanations.

The Department has to deplore the death early in the year of Mr. Paul Vella, an able sanitarian of the old school and a loyal servant of the Council for thirty-four years, the last nine as Chief Public Health Inspector. He is succeeded to this post by Mr. Joseph Suarez. Mr. Hubert Caetano returned from the United Kingdom having obtained the Diploma for Public Health Inspectors Overseas of the Royal Society of Health, and in accordance with the Council's scheme for the training of Inspectors, two students are pursuing the necessary studies at the Royal Technical College, Salford, for the same purpose.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank all members of the Council for their courtesy and unfailing support, also my staff for their loyalty and willing help, and my colleagues in other departments for their valuable co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. DURANTE,

Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,

City Hall,

Gibraltar.

CITY COUNCIL OF GIBRALTAR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1959

Total area of Gibraltar Territory	1,387 acres
Area of the City	104 acres
Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar	25,721 persons
Estimated Fixed Civil Population of Gibraltar	24,063 persons
*Births in Fixed Civil Population,	
Males — 212	}
Females — 158	
	370
Birth Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population	15.37
Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population ...	15.16
*Deaths in Fixed Civil Population	196
Death Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population...	8.14
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Total Civil	
Population ...	8.63
Infantile Mortality Rate Fixed Civil Population	10.81
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.04

* Vide Note on Page 13.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1959

The following weather summary and tables have been kindly supplied by the Air Ministry's Meteorologist in Gibraltar.

The total rainfall amounted to 32.60 inches as compared with the present day mean of 29.85 inches. It is interesting to note that 62% of the year's fall was concentrated not in the winter period but in January, May and October, those being the only months to exceed their average quota. Sunshine proved disappointing averaging only 7.35 hours daily which is easily the lowest recorded at North Front. The main deficiency occurred in the first quarter but apart from June the summer was dull. The overall average temperature of 64.7°F is exactly the same as for 1958 and is less than 1°F below the Gibraltar mean. The tendency was for a less extreme range of temperatures with the average day maximum being slightly lower and the average night minimum slightly higher. The year's average humidity of 75% is just normal. March proved the most humid month. Westerly winds slightly dominated the Easterly in the proportion of 57% to 43%. December again proved almost free of Levanter, but during February and again in the summer period June to August the Levanter was conspicuous. Gales occurred in February, October, November and December. February was the windiest month but the highest winds were recorded on the night of the 30th November and 1st December.

January. Featured the heaviest and most concentrated period of rain in Gibraltar history when in a 21-hour period extending over the 30th and 31st a total of 11½ inches was recorded. The skies literally opened in the early hours of the 31st and there was extensive flooding in the lower levels of the Town. A violent electrical storm occurred on the 26th. It was relatively warm but generally cloudy and sunshine was markedly below average.

February. A dull, dry and windy month. Easterly winds blew continuously from the 9th to the 25th and reached gale force on consecutive days from the 13th to the 19th. The total sunshine amounted to no more than 100 hours which is easily the lowest recorded in any February at North Front. The daytime temperatures were approximately 3½°F below average and over the past 13 years only 1956 has proved colder.

March. A bracing month with the weather much akin to a good English spring. The total rainfall of 2.09 inches was well below the average but was spread over 15 rain days. There was a deficiency in the total sunshine but only two days were completely overcast and from the 27th to the 31st there was an unbroken spell of warm sunshine. Temperatures however over the whole month were well below average.

April. The best month of the year being dry and with abundance of warm sunshine. Rain fell on only 4 days and yielded a total of less than half an inch. A magnificent spell of fine weather persisted from the 17th to the 25th. The total sunshine was nearly 30 hours over the usual April yield.

May. A dull and very wet month with excessive cloud amounts and unusually high rainfall for the time of the year. Easily the worst May on record at North Front. The total sunshine fell below normal by nearly 60 hours. The month of May in both 1958 and 1952 were relatively wet; 1959 with a total fall of 3.02 inches exceeded them both and more than trebled the average yield. Temperatures were also down and never once reached 80°F.

June. A very average month which followed the accustomed pattern in almost every respect. Little or no rain, over 11 hours sunshine a day and a reasonable average temperature of 70°F. The maximum thermometer registered 91°F on the 28th which has been twice equalled but not exceeded at North Front. On the night of the 28th/29th the thermometer never fell below 75°F. Sea temperatures around local beaches rose to 67°F.

July. Another dull and rather cool month with a rather high frequency of Levant winds and the lowest sunshine figures recorded at North Front since records began in 1936. The total amount was only just over 300 hours and nearly 50 hours less than the average. The rainfall was negligible but humidities relatively high. Sea fogs were fairly frequently reported in local waters and a thunderstorm occurred on the 13th. Temperatures generally were slightly below average with a highest for the month of 91°F. There was a continuous spell of Levant for the first 13 days.

August. Also was relatively cool with an average day maximum temperature of fractionally over 80°F which is the lowest for the past 14 years. At no time did the thermometer register 90°F or over which is unusual. There was little or no rain and an excess of easterly winds with a notice-

ably dull spell from the 25th to the 29th. Sunshine figures fell below average but sea temperatures remained rather high. There were a large number of sea fogs reported.

September. An average month with no outstanding features. Local thunderstorms often threatened but produced practically no rainfall. Temperature and sunshine figures conformed to normal averages with the days relatively cooler and the nights warmer than usual. Westerly winds were refreshingly frequent but produced a marked drop in the sea temperatures.

October. A pleasantly bracing month after the dull summer. There was abundant rainfall for the time of the year 3.91 inches but it fell on only 5 days of the month and 80% of it was concentrated in the early hours of the 25th when Gibraltar experienced an unusually heavy and prolonged thunderstorm marked by one of the most vivid displays of almost continuous lightning in memory. Excessive cloud amounts on the 2nd ruined good viewing of the solar eclipse. Temperatures were equable and sunshine slightly deficient.

November. A month of marked contrasts, bright warm sunshine in its early days and a howling gale with driving rain in its final hours. The total rainfall of 4.61 inches was barely adequate and was spread over 13 rain days. The daily sunshine average amounted to 5.2 hours. Winds were mainly westerly and generally moderate in speed until the last day when they gradually increased to an average of Force 10 with gusts of hurricane force which reached a maximum of 79 kt.

December. As the gale in the early hours of the first died out the weather improved steadily and for the remainder of the month conditions were ideal with crisp cool mornings, warm afternoons and an abundance of sunshine. Total rainfall amounted to only 1.79 inches or approximately one third of a December average. There were 176 hours of bright sunshine, a figure which has only twice been exceeded. Overall temperatures were slightly below average. Easterly winds were almost non-existent.

Summary. A poor year with temperatures slightly below average, an adequate rainfall and a markedly below average yield of sunshine. Noteworthy for the torrential rainfall in late January, the extraordinary electric storm in October and the gale at the end of November and beginning of December. April and December were the most delightful months and February and May the most disappointing.

STATION GIBALTAR (North Front)

Lat 36° 09' N. Long 05° 21' W. Barometer Height 24 Ft. Raingauge 8 Ft. Above M.S.L.

YEAR 1959 Month	Mean Pres- sure at MSL	TEMPERATURE OF														RELATIVE HUMIDITY				CLOUD AMOUNT (OKTAS)			
		MEANS					HIGHEST		LOWEST														
		Dry		Bulb		Max. A	Min. B	Mean of A & B	Max	Date	Min	Date	Min on gras	Date	03	09	15	21	03	09	15	21	
		0300	0900	1500	2100																		Date	Date
		January	1020.9	55.9	55.9	60.1	57.0	60.9	53.9	57.4	66	7/16th, 22nd	46	4th 17th	39	16th	82	81	71	81	41	52	51	21	4.6
February	1024.4	54.7	54.8	58.3	56.0	59.1	52.5	55.8	66	25th	45	5th	39	9th 22nd 26th	76	74	67	73	47	57	50	4.0	4.0
March	1018.1	56.4	58.2	62.1	58.5	63.3	54.8	59.1	69	27/29th 31st	49	13th	42	2nd	84	80	71	82	46	55	55	4.3	4.3
April	1017.1	58.2	61.2	66.3	60.9	67.6	56.6	62.1	74	28th	51	11th	43	1st 26th	82	74	60	77	3.3	3.9	3.9	2.7	2.7
May	1013.9	61.0	63.9	67.5	63.3	69.0	59.6	64.3	76	12th	56	7th	50	17th 25th	85	78	69	81	8.8	5.0	4.4	3.4	3.4
June	1018.2	66.4	69.7	74.6	68.8	76.6	64.5	70.5	91	28th	59	6th/8th	43	9th	79	74	62	78	1.7	2.6	1.7	1.5	1.5
July	1016.4	70.9	73.4	77.9	72.4	79.6	68.9	74.3	91	28th	66	5th/6th 15th	61	6th	80	77	64	79	3.0	3.0	2.2	2.2	2.2
August	1015.0	70.5	73.4	78.4	72.8	80.2	68.8	74.5	89	30th	61	14th	58	14th	84	76	65	79	3.5	3.7	1.7	2.3	2.3
September ...	1015.3	69.0	71.9	77.0	71.4	78.8	67.3	73.1	84	17/18th	63	30th	61	16th 28th 30th	79	73	59	74	2.6	3.5	3.0	2.4	2.4
October	1018.6	65.0	66.8	71.0	67	72.0	63.5	67.7	79	10/19th	51	30th	45	30th	81	75	64	76	3.5	4.6	4.0	3.2	3.2
November	1016.9	57.7	59.3	63.3	59.8	64.5	56.0	60.3	72	1/3rd	49	16th	39	16th	83	78	70	79	4.0	4.6	4.5	3.4	3.4
December	1021.2	54.3	54.6	60.1	56.0	60.9	52.0	56.5	67	31st	47	5/15th 20th	38	30th	80	77	65	79	3.6	4.1	4.4	3.8	3.8
Year	1018.0	61.7	63.6	68	63.7	69.4	59.9	64.7	91	28/6th 28/7th	45	5th/2nd	38	30th 12th	81	76	66	78	3.5	4.3	3.8	3.1	3.1

STATION GIBRALTAR (North Front).

Lat. 36°09' N. Long. 05° 21' W. Barometer Height 24 ft. above M.S.L. Raingauge 8 ft Above M.S.L

YEAR 1959 Month	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		WEATHER								
	Total mm	Max in 24 hrs. 09-09	Date	Daily Mean Hrs.	% of Pos- sible	No. of Days of								
						Rain	Snow	Hail	Thun- der	Over- cast Sky	Clear Sky	Gales	Fog	Ground Frost
Jan	372.1	293.9	30th	4.71	47.3	12	0	0	2	8	5	0	1	0
Feb	45.4	12.0	8th	3.60	33.1	9	0	1	0	3	1	3	0	0
Mar	54.7	13.9	8th	5.46	45.3	15	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0
April	10.7	4.2	4/13	9.06	69.1	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
May	76.8	44.9	6th	7.86	55.7	10	0	0	2	3	3	0	1	0
June	0.7	0.7	1st	11.33	77.7	1	0	0	0	0	14	0	1	0
July	0.8	0.8	12th	9.76	68.1	1	0	0	1	0	10	0	5	0
Aug	1.5	1.5	28th	9.92	73.2	1	0	0	1	0	7	0	8	0
Sept	3.6	2.2	11th	8.90	71.5	7	0	0	2	2	11	0	1	0
Oct	99.4	78.3	24th	6.77	60.2	6	0	0	3	4	4	1	0	0
Nov	125.3	34.8	28th	5.22	50.6	13	0	0	2	4	5	1	0	0
Dec	37.1	15.7	9th	5.67	58.3	8	0	0	0	5	6	1	0	0
Year	828.1	293.9	30/1	7.35	59.2	87	0	1	13	37	70	6	17	0

WIND

Frequency at 0300, 0900, 1500 & 2100 G.M.T.

Force 1—3 = 1—10 Knots. Force 4—5 = 11—21 Knots. Force 6—7 = 33 Knots.

Force 8 = 34 Knots.

YEAR 1959	FORCE					DIRECTION								
	MONTHS	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	—	6	49	65	4	1	4	38	10	—	—	9	48	10
February	11	27	27	46	1	—	4	61	9	—	—	5	25	7
March	—	11	57	55	1	—	2	31	7	—	—	17	56	10
April	—	9	41	68	2	—	6	27	8	4	4	15	48	8
May	—	6	54	64	—	—	1	41	14	3	3	10	48	7
June	—	3	62	54	1	1	2	50	11	1	1	13	37	5
July	—	1	53	69	1	1	8	54	13	—	—	9	33	5
August	—	1	49	73	1	1	1	71	5	2	2	9	30	5
September	—	—	43	74	3	3	3	20	8	4	4	17	57	8
October	—	6	60	54	4	4	2	56	1	1	1	8	36	14
November	1	4	47	67	1	1	3	26	13	1	1	8	49	19
December	1	9	54	58	2	2	—	2	1	—	—	10	75	34
Year	13	83	596	747	21	6	36	477	100	16	130	542	132	

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics are based on the estimated civil population of Gibraltar as shown in the Police Registration Office. They do not include personnel of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and unless otherwise stated, they do not relate to their families, or to non-resident aliens.

The civil population at the end of the year under review was constituted as follows:—

	Adults		Children		
	Men	Women	Male	Female	
Gibraltarians	...6,057	7,455	2,629	2,438=	18,579
Other British	...1,012	1,989	1,301	1,182=	5,484
Aliens	.....	704	940	7	7=
Totals	.....	7,773	10,384	3,937	3,627=
					25,721

Compared with the preceding year these figures represent a decrease of 14 in the British Fixed Population accounted for by an increase of 36 in Gibraltarians and a decrease of 50 in Other British Subjects.

The Gibraltarian population shows a decrease of 91 adults (52 men and 39 women) and an increase of 127 in the number of children (71 males and 56 females) compared with 1958 when there was a decrease of 85 adults and an increase of 171 children.

The number of aliens increased by 98 resulting in a general increase of 84 in the Total Population. The corresponding figure for 1958 was 234.

The alterations in population since 1930 are shown below:

How Estimated	British Subjects Fixed Population	Alien Subjects Floating Population	Total Population
Police Estimate end of 1930	15,526	922	16,448
Census April 1931	16,188	1,425	17,613
Police Estimate end of 1932	15,143	1,466	16,609
„ „ „ „ 1933	15,071	1,326	16,397
„ „ „ „ 1934	14,790	1,057	15,847
„ „ „ „ 1935	15,735	1,130	16,865
„ „ „ „ 1936	16,875	2,319	19,194
„ „ „ „ 1937	16,792	2,749	19,541
„ „ „ „ 1938	17,222	3,017	20,239
„ „ „ „ 1939	18,125	2,315	20,440
1940 to 1944 civil population evacuated during war years:			
Police Estimate end of 1945	17,448	1,784	19,232
„ „ „ „ 1946	19,269	1,964	21,233
„ „ „ „ 1947	20,316	2,216	22,532
„ „ „ „ 1948	21,472	2,228	23,700
„ „ „ „ 1949	22,208	2,377	24,585
„ „ „ „ 1950	22,470	2,416	24,886
Census July 1951	19,739	1,361	21,100
Police Estimate end of 1952	22,176	2,297	24,473
„ „ „ „ 1953	22,629	2,107	24,736
„ „ „ „ 1954	23,044	1,877	24,921
„ „ „ „ 1955	23,091	1,738	24,829
„ „ „ „ 1956	23,443	1,621	25,064
„ „ „ „ 1957	23,783	1,620	25,403
„ „ „ „ 1958	24,077	1,560	25,637
„ „ „ „ 1959	24,063	1,658	25,721

*Deaths

One hundred and ninety-six deaths, ninety-four males and one hundred and two females were registered as having occurred in the resident British civil population during the year which represents a death rate of 8.14 per thousand. Though the ratio of males to females showed a small variation, the total number of deaths and the death rate were identical to those for 1958. With the exception of the year 1947, these death rates are the lowest recorded since the repatriation of the population in 1945.

In addition twenty-six deaths occurred amongst non-resident aliens providing a total of two hundred and twenty-two deaths or 8.63 per thousand total population.

*Vide Note on Page 13.

One hundred and thirty-three or 67.8 per cent of all deaths concerned persons over 65 years of age, a considerable number being octogenarians. The age group 55 to 64 years contributed 36 deaths. Only one death occurred amongst children between 1 and 14 years of age.

Thus one hundred and sixty-nine deaths amounting to 86.2 per cent of the total number of deaths occurred in persons fifty-five years of age or older and were attributed principally to cardio-vascular diseases, vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system and malignant neoplasms.

The principal causes of deaths were:—

Cardio-vascular diseases	65	(61)
Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system	37	(29)
Malignant neoplasms	29	(30)
Diseases of the respiratory organs	20	(16)
(excluding neoplasms)		
Diabetes Mellitus	9	(9)
Senility	7	(10)

(Figures in brackets are for 1958)

Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused only one death.

The pattern of distribution of the principal causes of death was the same as in 1958.

Cardio-vascular diseases together with vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system contributed a total of one hundred and two or 52 per cent of all deaths. Diseases of the coronary arteries predominated as in the preceding year.

There was only one death from these diseases in persons under 45 years of age.

Malignant neoplasms proved the second highest cause of mortality contributing twenty-nine or 14.7 per cent of all deaths. With four exceptions the persons concerned were elderly subjects over 55 years of age.

The respiratory organs showed the highest incidence, nine persons dying from cancer of the lung and two from cancer of the larynx which provided eleven or 37.9 per cent of all cancer deaths. All were males, four between 45 and 64 years of age and seven 65 years or older. The corresponding figures for 1958 were 6 and 20 per cent.

Malignant neoplasms of the stomach contributed six deaths representing the second highest incidence in deaths from cancer.

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms — period 1947-59

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Deaths	26	28	25	32	32	35	39	45	38	28	33	30	29

There were no maternal deaths.

Deaths by Months and Quarters

January	16	July	10
February	24	August	20
March	26	September ..	18
1st Qr.	66	3rd Qr.	48
April	23	October	13
May	20	November	15
June	14	December	23
2nd Qr.	57	4th Qr.	51

Included twenty-six deaths from cases landed from the Bay or brought into Town for treatment.

*Births

Three hundred and seventy children, two hundred and twelve males and one hundred and fifty-eight females were registered as having been born from the civil population in 1959 providing a birth rate of 15.37 per thousand fixed British civil population which represents a small decrease compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were 383 and 15.90 and constitutes the lowest birth rate recorded since 1945. Notwithstanding this, births outnumbered deaths by one hundred and seventy-four. In addition there were twenty births to non-resident aliens constituting a total of three hundred and ninety or 15.16 per thousand total civil population.

The distribution of births between hospitals, private practitioners and midwives was as follows:—

Colonial Hospital	347
Military Hospital	24
Private Practitioners	4
Midwives	15

*Vide Note on Page 13.

The preference for confinement in hospital which has been a feature since the repatriation of the population continued.

Still Births

Still births registered during the year numbered six which amounts to 15.1 per thousand total live and still births. The corresponding figures for 1958 were 5 and 12.2.

Though subject to considerable fluctuations, an average of approximately eight such births have been registered annually since 1950 when the statutory registration of births was first enforced.

Illegitimate Births

Five illegitimate births were registered during the year amounting to 1.3 per cent of all births. These are the lowest figures recorded since 1948.

Illegitimate Births period 1948-59

Year	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number	10	15	13	17	13	12	8	11	11	14	10	5
Rate per cent of all births	2.69	3.69	3.66	4.29	3.2	3.05	1.9	2.8	2.7	3.6	2.4	1.3

*Infant Mortality

Four infants died before attaining the age of one year which constitutes an infant mortality rate of 10.81. So far as can be ascertained from statistical data available in the Public Health Department, this constitutes the lowest infant mortality rate ever recorded in Gibraltar.

All the infants concerned died within the first week from birth and their deaths were attributed to prematurity, atelectasis, non-viability at birth and intra-cranial injury sustained during delivery. The neo-natal mortality rate proved therefore the same as the infant mortality rate.

These deaths together with the six still births noted above represent a perinatal mortality of 25.25 per thousand total live and still births.

Perinatal mortality is a term used to describe still births and deaths occurring during the first week of life, and is a measure of the loss of life due to circumstances before and during pregnancy and events during labour and delivery.

*Vide Note on Page 13.

Ages and Causes of Infant Deaths during 1959 were as follows:—

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-6 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under one year
(a) Intra cranial injury	1				1					1
(b) Difficult forceps delivery.										
Non-viable birth	1				1					1
Prematurity	1				1					1
Atelectasis	1				1					1
TOTALS	4				4					4

PERINATAL MORTALITY PERIOD 1950-9

Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Combined still births & deaths under 1 week—numbers	11	19	19	14	10	9	8	16	10	10
Perinatal mortality per thous- and total births	30.2	47.0	48.3	36.2	25.5	23.6	20.5	42.21	24.44	25.25
Mortality under 1 year per thousand live births	28.16	31	41.55	25.44	33.5	18.76	13.05	24.39	18.27	10.81

INFANTILE MORTALITY AND NEONATAL DEATH RATES FOR THE PERIOD 1945-59

		Infantile Mortality	Neonatal Mortality
1945	.....	32.89	16.4
1946	.....	36.4	9.7
1947	.....	47.2	34.1
1948	.....	29.56	13.5
1949	.....	34.2	24.2
1950	.....	28.16	8.4
1951	.....	31	12.9
1952	.....	41.55	36.36
1953	.....	25.44	22.9
1954	.....	33.5	23.19
1955	.....	18.76	5.36
1956	.....	13.05	10.44
1957	.....	24.39	21.68
1958	.....	18.27	13.05
1959	.....	10.81	10.81

NOTE:—

One hundred and sixty births and nine deaths (including four infants) which occurred among sections of the population with which these statistics are not concerned are not included in the above data.

The total number of births and deaths which occurred during the year 1959 and the corresponding crude rates were therefore as follows:—

Births.....550 or 21.38 per thousand total population.

Deaths.....231 or 8.98 per thousand total population.

Deaths in infants under one year.....8 or 14.54 per thousand
total live births.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE PERIODS 1930-9 AND 1945-59

Year	POPULATION		DEATHS			INFANTILE MORTALITY		BIRTHS	
	Fixed	Total	How Estimated	Rate per 1,000 population		No.	Rate per 1,000 births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Fixed Population
				Fixed Population	Total Population				
1930	15,526	16,448	Police Estimate	240	240	15.6	14.5	349	22.4
1931	16,188	17,613	Census	250	254	15.4	14.4	377	23.28
1932	15,143	16,609	Police Estimate	245	259	16.17	15.59	346	22.84
1933	15,071	16,397	"	241	245	15.99	14.94	357	23.68
1934	14,790	15,847	"	225	230	15.21	14.51	383	25.8
1935	15,735	16,865	"	255	265	16.20	15.71	267	16.9
1936	15,735	16,865	"	249	261	15.82	15.47	304	19.30
1937	16,792	19,541	"	256	292	15.24	14.93	381	22.69
1938	17,222	20,239	"	246	278	14.28	13.74	363	21.07
1939	18,125	20,440	"	276	296	15.22	14.25	378	20.85
Period of evacuation of civil population									
1945	17,448	19,232	"	155	162	8.88	8.42	608	34.84
1946	19,269	21,233	"	177	187	9.18	8.8	412	21.38
1947	20,316	22,532	"	146	148	7.18	6.56	381	18.75
1948	21,472	23,700	"	176	182	8.19	7.67	372	17.32
1949	22,208	24,585	"	181	185	8.15	7.52	408	18.37
1950	22,470	24,886	"	199	207	8.85	8.31	355	15.79
1951	19,739	21,100	Census)	241	255	12.2	12.08	387	19.6
Mid-Year)									
1952	22,176	24,473	Police Estimate	191	195	8.61	7.96	385	17.36
1953	22,629	24,736	"	186	199	8.21	8.79	377	16.66
1954	23,044	24,921	"	216	227	9.37	9.10	388	16.83
1955	23,091	24,829	"	200	216	8.66	8.69	373	16.15
1956	23,443	25,064	"	194	221	8.27	8.81	383	16.33
1957	23,783	25,403	"	232	246	9.75	9.68	369	15.51
1958	24,077	25,637	"	196	212	8.14	8.26	383	15.90
1959	24,063	25,721	"	196	222	8.14	8.63	370	15.37

MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES

The Colonial Government are responsible for these services which are operated under the administrative direction of the Chief Medical Officer who is also the Superintendent of the Colonial Hospital. This arrangement ensures a high degree of integration of the preventive and curative organizations concerned.

I am indebted to Dr. J. A. Cochrane, Chief Medical Officer, for the following information regarding the progress of these services during 1959:—

Maternity Service

Ante-natal clinics were held at the Colonial Hospital twice weekly. Attendance was very good. Again the majority of mothers continued to be delivered in the Colonial Hospital. A few cases were delivered in their homes by private doctors or registered midwives.

There were five locally registered midwives engaged in private practice during the year.

The average stay in hospital was 6 days.

Summary of the work of the Maternity Department

Deliveries:

Males	197	
Females	157	
	—	354
Twins	2	sets
Premature Births	5	
Caesarian Sections	12	
Toxaemias	18	
Still Births	5	
Neo-natal deaths	4	
Maternal Death	Nil	

Paediatric Service

Sick children are now seen in the general medical clinic but there is now a referred clinic for children run by the Paediatrician. Attendance at this clinic was 282.

Child Welfare

Clinics were held regularly throughout the year at three Centres situated in the North, Centre and South of the town.

Towards the middle of the year, however, the South Centre was closed owing to a decrease in the number of mothers attending as they preferred to attend the Town Clinic. The North Centre was closed owing to building operations in the area but it is hoped to start it again when new premises are provided. At two of these Clinics advice on infant and child welfare is given by the Paediatrician in charge. Children who require treatment are referred to the Out-Patient Clinic for children at the Colonial Hospital. Immunizations against Diphtheria and Whooping-Cough are carried out at the Colonial Hospital.

Inoculation against Poliomyelitis was commenced in the Autumn and was undertaken jointly by the Colonial Government and the City Council who provided the vaccines. The actual inoculation took place at the Child Welfare Centre, the Colonial Hospital and schools, according to age group, but for the moment only children under and of school age are being immunised.

A Health Visitor and a team of Assistant Health Visitors carry out home visiting and liaison is maintained with the Maternity Department of the Colonial Hospital.

The number of registered infants and attendances at the various centres were as follows:—

Town Clinic

	1959	1958
Number of children registered	685	660
Attendances	5,646	5,872

South Clinic (January-June)

Number of children registered	46	98
Attendances	215	685

Glacis Clinic

Number of children registered	37	54
Attendances	190	476

Special Clinics held by the Paediatrician

Number of children registered	484	522
Total number of attendances	1,094	1,420
Number of Clinics held	95	100

YEAR OF BIRTH, AGE GROUP AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON THE REGISTER WERE AS FOLLOWS:—

Town Clinic Total number on the Register: 685.

Year of Birth	Age Groups	Number
1954	Over 5 years	12
1955	4—5	40
1956	3—4	50
1957	2—3	79
1958	1—2	221
1959	0—1	283

South Clinic Total number on the Register: 46.

1954	Over 5 years	3
1955	4—5	3
1956	3—4	8
1957	2—3	8
1958	1—2	15
1959	0—1	9

Glacis Clinic Total number on the Register: 37.

1954	Over 5 years	4
1955	4—5	7
1956	3—4	7
1957	2—3	7
1958	1—2	11
1959	0—1	1

Home Visits

	1959	1958
Primary	328	370
Children under 1 year	539	620
Children over 1 year	2,691	2,682
Ante-natal	76	85
Special	73	108
Fruitless	445	458
Removals (untraced)	125	128
Houses	2,656	2,776

Immunizations (Carried out at the Colonial Hospital)

Anti-diphtheria prophylactic	Courses completed:	10
Combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic	Courses completed:	13

School Medical Service

The School Medical Service was in abeyance owing to shortage of medical staff.

Cleanliness Inspection 1959

Number of children inspected	4,598
Number of children clean	4,385
Number of children nits	88
Number of children dirty	19
Notes sent to parents	73
Home visits	21

Referred to Clinics as the result of the above Inspection

Ophthalmic Clinic	68
Dental Clinic	563
Doctor's Clinic	27

SUMMARY OF DENTAL TREATMENT CARRIED OUT IN THE PRIVATE SURGERIES

Dental Surgeon	Sessions for Treatment	Teeth Conserved	Teeth Extracted	Attendances for Scaling and Gum Treatment
Mr. A. A. Danino...	178	933	381	171
Mr. J. J. Cochrane	49	182	149	36

Causes of Death in the Civil Population during 1959, according to the International Intermediate List with Age and Sex Incidence.

Cause of Death		Detailed List of Numbers	All Ages	Under 1 yr.		1 yr. & under 5		5 yrs. & under 15		15 yrs. & under 25		25 yrs. & under 35		35 yrs. & under 45		45 yrs. & under 55		55 yrs. & under 65		65 yrs. & under 75		75 yrs. & over		
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
A 1	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	001-008	1												1								1	
A 45	Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus ...	150	1																1	1	4			
A 46	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	151	6																1	1				
A 47	Malignant neoplasm of intestine, except rectum	152, 153	2																1				1	
A 49	Malignant neoplasm of larynx	161	2																	1				
A 50	Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung, not specified as secondary	162, 163	9														2	1	2		3	1	2	
A 51	Malignant neoplasm of breast	170	2																					
A 53	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of uterus	172-174	1																					
A 54	Malignant neoplasm of prostate	177	3														1			1			1	
A 57	Malignant neoplasm of all other and unspecified sites	155-160																						
A 58	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	164, 165	1																				1	
A 63	Diabetes mellitus	175, 176	9																					
A 66	Allergic disorders; all other endocrine, metabolic, and blood diseases	178-181																						
		192-195																						
		198, 199																						
		204																						
		260																						
		240-245																						
		253, 254																						
		270-277	2																					
		287-289																						
		294-299																						
A 70	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	330-334	37														1		1	7	4	5	5	14
A 71	Non-meningococcal meningitis	340	1																					
A 77	Otitis media and mastoiditis	391-393	1																					
A 78	All other diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	341-344																						
		350-352	1																					
		354-369																						
		380-384																						
		386																						
		388-390																						
		391-398																						
A 81	Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	420-422	43																					
A 82	Other diseases of heart	430-434	5																					
A 83	Hypertension with heart disease	440-443	9																					
A 84	Hypertension without mention of heart	444-447	1																					
A 85	Diseases of arteries	450-456	7																					
A 88	Influenza	480-483	1																					
A 89	Lobar pneumonia	490	3																					
A 90	Bronchopneumonia	491	2																					
A 92	Acute bronchitis	500	2																					
A 93	Bronchitis, chronic and unqualified	501, 502	8																					
A 97	All other respiratory diseases	511-517	3																					
		520																						
		522-527																						
A 99	Ulcer of stomach	540	2																					
A 100	Ulcer of duodenum	541	1																					
A 103	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	560, 561	3																					
		570																						
A 105	Cirrhosis of liver	581	1																					
A 106	Cholelithiasis and cholecystitis	584, 585	1																					
A 107	Other diseases of digestive system	536-539	2																					
		542																						
		544, 545																						
		573-580																						
		582, 583																						
		586, 587																						
		602, 604																						
A 111	Calculi of urinary system	601, 603	1																					
A 114	Other diseases of genito-urinary system	605-609																						
		611-617																						
		622-637																						
A 126	All other diseases of skin and musculoskeletal system	700-716	3																					
		731-736																						
		738-744																						
		760, 761																						
		762																						
A 130	Birth injuries	773-776																						
A 131	Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	794																						
A 135	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy, and immaturity unqualified	780-793	1																					
A 136	Senility without mention of psychosis	795	2																					
A 137	Ill-defined and unknown causes of morbidity and mortality	N810-N829	7																					
AN 140	Fracture of limbs	N950-N959																						
AN 150	All other and unspecified effects of external causes	N980-N999	2																					
	Totals		196	3	1							1			4	3	9	4	19	17	37	26	20	50

CARE OF THE SICK AND AGED

Provisions for the institutional care of aged or infirm persons remain the same as have been described in my previous Annual Reports.

The Colonial Government maintain two hostels, one at Beriro's Home and the other at the Little Sisters of the Poor. They are administered by the Department of Labour and Social Security, and can accommodate a total of seventy persons. A small number of aged and infirm women are cared for at the Colonial Hospital.

It is gratifying to record that fair progress has been made during 1959 in rehousing the residents of the temporary dwellings at the Little Sisters of the Poor and that the provision and equipment of suitable premises where the inmates of the Hostel can be temporarily housed whilst the new old people's homes are being erected on this site is well under way.

CHILDREN DEVOID OF PARENTAL CARE

The adoption of measures to provide for the welfare of children who because they are orphans or because of the temporary absence of the mother through illness are devoid of parental care is still under consideration by the Government.

It is envisaged that introduction of a boarding-out scheme for such children together with an extension of the home help service which is provided by the Department of Labour and Social Security to those in receipt of assistance from public funds would best meet the requirements of the small number of children involved, and the enactment of the necessary legislation for the purpose is being considered.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

The occupational centre which was opened in 1958 by the Department of Labour and Social Security for training children who are mentally or otherwise handicapped continued to function successfully. The centre is open to all British children residing in Gibraltar, and there are also arrangements for sending children such as deaf mutes and others to the United Kingdom who are likely to benefit from specialized treatment which is not available in Gibraltar.

CARE OF THE BLIND

I am indebted to the Hon. Secretary of the Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Blindness, the Honble. Mrs. Dorothy M. Ellicott, M.B.E., for the information regarding the work of the Society during the year 1959 on which this section is based.

Twenty-one blind people, eighteen women aged from 54 to 91 years and three men from 58 to 79 years old were registered during 1959 maintaining the ratio of 6 to 1 women to men. This appears to be a constant statistical feature for blindness in Gibraltar which hitherto has not been satisfactorily explained.

Fourteen deaths occurred and one blind person left the Colony.

The total number now in the Society's register is 123 which includes 109 blind and 14 partially sighted. Of these 74 received public assistance and 11 are in Government homes or hospitals.

The principal cause of blindness is considered to be Myopia with advanced Choroido-Retinal Atrophy especially in females.

The youngest blind person in Gibraltar is a girl of 19, but there are a few children of school age whose sight is so bad that they may become blind later in life. Of these, two sisters are being taught braille in addition to the normal school curriculum, and a third child of the same family will receive similar tuition as soon as she leaves the infants' school.

There are only three blind men aged between 20 and 30, two women and one man between 30 and 40, and five women and two men between 40 and 50, while ninety of our total one hundred and nine blind and fourteen partially sighted are over 60.

Of the three blind men between 20 and 30 one is doing well as a switchboard operator, but the other two refuse to do anything beyond selling a few lottery tickets. Of the three between 30 and 50, two contrive to retain the jobs as labourers they had before their sight failed, and the third tunes pianos and makes baskets. The seven blind men between 50 and 60 include a teacher, a shop owner, a lottery vendor, a casual labourer and a chair reseater.

A blind man who was a teacher before he lost his sight is employed with the Department of Education to teach the blind and partially sighted. He has been housed in a modern flat in which the younger blind meet and which is virtually a

blind person's club. He is also a member of the Society's Committee.

Government shares with the Military Authorities the services of a qualified Ophthalmic Surgeon, who conducts four eye clinics each week at the Colonial Hospital — three for adults and one for school children, at which he sees cases referred to him by the Out-Patient Department and the School Medical Service. During 1959 he saw 2,247 patients, 1,683 adults and 564 children, of whom 905 adults and 214 children were classed as new patients, not having been seen during the previous year. He also performed some four hundred operations including cataract extractions and operations for squints in children.

The Society shares with the Red Cross the services of a field worker and is allowed the use of their light van for conveying blind persons to hospital when necessary, to their lessons, or the teacher to their homes.

The Society pays for spectacles for those in the low income groups who cannot afford them, whilst those on public assistance are provided with them by Government. This proves a heavy drain on the Society's funds, and it has recently suggested to Government that children should be provided with glasses when ordered through the School Medical Service.

Though the blind may not be restored their sight, their burden is being made much lighter, and not a few who would inevitably become blind are being saved from such a calamity by the humane disinterested work of the members of this Society — all praise to them.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases statutorily notifiable under the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance in Gibraltar are: Smallpox, Cholera, Epidemic Typhus, Plague, Yellow Fever, Relapsing Fever, Dysentery, Diphtheria, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, Typhoid or Enteric Fever, Undulant Fever, Acute Encephalitis, Acute Poliomyelitis, Chicken Pox, Epidemic Parotitis, Erysipelas, Leprosy, Measles, Meningococcal Infection, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Paratyphoid Fever, Pertussis, Puerperal Fever, Rubella, Trachoma, Tuberculosis (all forms), Venereal disease.

A total of one thousand and seventy-five cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year from the civil population which represents an incidence of 44.6 per thousand and amounts to an increase of six hundred and sixty-nine compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were 406 and 16.8 per thousand.

The incidence is the highest recorded since 1945, the increase being due principally to a widespread epidemic of Measles which contributed 660 notifications and to minor outbreaks of Mumps and Whooping-Cough which provided 183 and 85 cases respectively. As the attacks of these diseases were generally mild, there is little doubt that doctors were not called in a considerable number of cases and the incidence was much higher than is represented by the number of notifications.

Six cases of Diphtheria were reported during the year.

No notifications of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were received from the civil population.

Only one death which was caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis was attributed to the infectious diseases.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases for the period 1945-59:—

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Numbers ...	102	103	168	252	181	225	836	462	552	311	355	828	353	406	1,075
Triennial Averages	124.3			219.3			616.6			498			611		

NOTE: Two hundred and fifty cases of infectious diseases notified from families of service personnel and casual visitors or who were brought into town for treatment are not included in the data recorded above.

Notifications received from all sources therefore totalled 1,325 which represents a crude incidence of 51.5 per thousand total population. The corresponding figures for 1958 were 535 and 20.8.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Sixteen persons, eleven males and five females, were notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year which provides an incidence of 0.66 per thousand and represents an increase of six compared to the preceding year when the corresponding figures were 10 and 0.41 per thousand.

The youngest was a female infant aged $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, the eldest a male aged 67. The ages of the other females ranged between 18 and 36 years. Of the males the youngest was a youth aged 15 years who was probably infected by his sister who had herself contracted the disease in Spain. Four were between 18 and 45 years, the rest were over 50 years of age. Nine of the patients concerned were sputum positive, the others were diagnosed on clinical and radiological evidence.

There was only one death, a female aged 41 years (notified in 1946), which represents a mortality rate of 0.04 per thousand.

The table which follows shows that though there has been a progressive decline in the mortality from this disease during the past decade, notifications with but small fluctuations have not decreased proportionately. This together with the ages of a large proportion of those notified indicates that there always remains a reservoir of infection mostly in late middle-aged and elderly subjects which under the overcrowded living conditions prevalent in Gibraltar, constitute a constant danger of spread of the disease.

The facilities for free radiological examination of prospective employees on application to the Director of Labour and Social Security which were first provided in 1952 continued to be available throughout the year, but the number of requests for such examinations is progressively smaller every year.

The principal purpose of this arrangement is to protect children from potential sources of infection in nursemaids and other servants who may come in intimate contact with them, and I must again urge parents to avail themselves of the facilities offered.

I am indebted to the Director of Labour and Social Security for the following table which shows details of screenings of domestic servants for the years 1952-1959:—

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
New entrants to domestic service in Gibraltar	21	110	26	2	4	3	4	3
Domestic servants transferring from one employer to another...	129	223	99	113	60	8	3	0
Domestic servants already in employment screened at employer's request	7	54	78	48	40	21	9	8
Total number screened..	157	387	203	163	104	32	16	11
Number found unfit ...	Nil	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

NOTE: Eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (one fatal) in non-residents admitted to hospital for treatment are not included in the above data.

Incidence and Mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1935-1939 and 1945-1959

Year	Cases	Deaths	Incidence per thousand	Deaths per thousand
1935	23	15	—	0.88
1936	30	19	1.90	1.20 (T.B. Officer appointed)
1937	34	21	1.74	1.08
1938	8	16	0.39	0.79
1939	16	14	0.8	—

Civil population evacuated during the war

1945	42	7	2.4	0.4
1946	30	6	1.55	0.31
1947	31	7	1.52	0.34
1948	17	12	0.72	0.51
1949	22	8	0.89	0.32
1950	19	6	0.76	0.24
1951	22	6	1.04	0.28
1952	28	4	1.26	0.18
1953	23	7	0.92	0.28
1954	25	10	1.08	0.43
1955	20	2	0.86	0.08
1956	16	1	0.68	0.04
1957	8	0	0.33	0.00
1958	10	2	0.41	0.08
1959	16	1	0.66	0.04

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis

No notifications of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were received from the civil population in 1959. A single case of a non-resident brought into hospital for treatment proved fatal.

Measles

A severe epidemic of Measles started in February. The incidence increased sharply to attain a peak in April and May when 252 and 201 cases were notified respectively and declined rapidly to end in August with 8 cases. A total of 660 notifications were received from the civil population which there is no doubt underrates the true incidence of the disease.

Epidemics of Measles of varying severity recur periodically in Gibraltar every three or four years, and as the last recorded was in 1956, the one under review was not unexpected. With but few exceptions the disease was confined to

children, the attacks were generally benign and there were no fatalities.

Fifteen cases of Rubella were also notified.

The following table shows the incidence of Measles in the civilian population during the period 1945-59:—

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cases	12	3	61	185	20	20	692	3	100	127	50	445	7	9	660

Whooping-Cough and Chicken Pox

There was a recrudescence during the early months of 1959 of the outbreaks of these diseases recorded in the preceding year contributing 85 and 60 notifications respectively.

Mumps

This disease which had only occurred sporadically for a considerable number of years produced a minor outbreak in the year under review which provided 183 notifications.

Dysentery

Twenty-five cases of Bacillary Dysentery were notified during 1959. The predominant causative organism was Sh. Sonnei. Sh.Flexnerii 6 (Newcastle), Sh.Flexnerii 2 (W) and Sh.Flexnerii 3 (Z) were also isolated from specimens submitted for investigation. The cases occurred sporadically and with the exception of familial contacts which in a few instances were found to be infected but symptomless, no evidence was found of any common source of infection.

No cases of Amoebic Dysentery were notified from town or from outside sources.

Enteric Fever

Notifications totalled four. Two cases of Paratyphoid Fever and one of Typhoid Fever which were confirmed serologically and one notified as "Enteric Fever" on clinical grounds only. One of the patients suffering from Paratyphoid Fever was employed as a cleaner in a public lavatory and probably contracted the disease in the course of her work.

Diphtheria

Six sporadic cases of Diphtheria were notified. Extensive investigations of all contacts which were undertaken failed to reveal a common source of infection. This is the highest incidence recorded since 1956. There were no deaths.

The records of immunizations against Diphtheria completed at the Colonial Hospital together with the very small demands for vaccine received from private practitioners show that the number of infants who are being protected against the disease is negligible, and it is lamentable to note the apathy of parents in this respect despite the unremitting representations and advice from the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the incidence and deaths from Diphtheria during the period 1945-59:—

Years	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cases	7	11	12	8	0	4	5	6	9	1	1	6	2	2	6
Deaths	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Scarlet Fever

Thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. The disease was generally benign and no fatalities occurred. The following table shows a steady decline in the incidence since the outbreak which occurred in 1956:—

Incidence of Scarlet Fever during the period 1946-1959

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cases	4	3	3	3	2	37	5	16	20	13	96	48	25	13

Meningococcal Meningitis

A single case of Meningococcal Meningitis occurred. Of three other cases notified, one proved to be Pneumococcal Meningitis secondary to suppurative Otitis Media, another benign Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis and in the third the cerebro-spinal fluid showed no abnormality.

Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox occurred in Gibraltar nor were any landed from the Bay in 1959.

Vaccinations

Number of children born	390*
Number who died before vaccination	4
Number who left Gibraltar before vaccination	25
Number certified as insusceptible to vaccination ...	1
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	9
Number successfully vaccinated (children born in 1959) ...	304
Objectors to vaccination	Nil
Outstanding	47

(* includes 20 non-residents)

In addition thirteen children who for various reasons had not been vaccinated or whose vaccinations had been postponed on account of illness were also vaccinated.

Thus three hundred and seventeen children were vaccinated which together with two hundred and ninety-two re-vaccinations performed on children who had attained the age of twelve years constitute a total of six hundred and nine statutory vaccinations carried out during the year, of which five hundred and seventy-nine were performed by the Public Vaccinator.

There have been no objectors to vaccination. Of the forty-seven outstanding, thirty-two had not attained the age of three months and notices were served on the remaining fifteen.

Fourteen members of the staff were also vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator in accordance with the Department's preventive policy, and thirty-five persons for purposes concerning the International Sanitary Regulations.

Vaccinations performed for all purposes during the year totalled six hundred and fifty-eight.

Rabies

No cases of Rabies occurred during 1959.

Because of the ease with which dogs may stray or be surreptitiously introduced from Spain where the disease is endemic, Gibraltar is inevitably in a vulnerable position respecting Rabies and it is disquieting to see, not infrequently, dogs parading our streets uncontrolled and devoid of muz-

zles in contravention of the regulations. It is only by strict enforcement of these regulations that a reasonable safeguard against an outbreak of Rabies among dogs can be ensured.

Incidence of Rabies in Gibraltar during period 1945-1959

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Dogs	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	0
Cats	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

The arrangement made in 1955 whereby the Gibraltar Branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals undertook to maintain control over the cat population by their Inspector having proved satisfactory has been continued since.

A total of 504 stray, unwanted and often diseased or seriously injured cats and 64 dogs in similar circumstances were humanely destroyed by the Society's Inspector during 1959.

These figures do not include a number of other such animals detailed in the following Table showing the work done in the Kennels during 1959 for which I am indebted to the Society.

	Dogs	Cats
Animals in quarantine	4	—
Animals in transit	120	17
Number of strays impounded and claimed ...	13	—
Unclaimed strays sold after 7 days	7	—
Unclaimed strays destroyed after 7 days	20	1
Animals under observation and claimed after 10 days	8	1
Animals destroyed at owner's request after 10 days observation	4	2
Other animals destroyed	2	—

Poliomyelitis

No cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified from the civilian population during 1959. One suspected case was not confirmed and a patient suffering from the disease was admitted from Spain for treatment at the Hospital.

Two cases of the non-paralytic type were notified from the Services, but owing to the absence of facilities were not confirmed virologically.

Though this disease has up to the present been comparatively uncommon among the local population, it was decided after careful consideration in view of a significant increase in the prevalence amounting in some instances to minor outbreaks reported from some districts in Spain to embark on a mass preventive vaccination of all infants and school children and to extend the facilities to doctors, nurses and medical auxiliaries, and to pregnant mothers.

The inoculations were offered free, the cost being shared by the City Council and Colonial Government.

Stocks of British type vaccine are being kept by the Public Health Department and issued as required to the Chief Medical Officer for the inoculation of infants, school children, pregnant mothers and members of the medical and nursing hospital staff, also to private practitioners for children whose parents prefer to have immunized privately. Vaccinations were started late in the year, but though the response appears to have been encouraging, it is too early to forecast the result of the project.

The following tables show the incidence of Poliomyelitis in Gibraltar for the periods 1935-9 and 1945-59:—

1935-1939

YEAR	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
CASES (Civilians)	—	—	1	3 (2 deaths)	3
(Imported)	—	—	1	—	—
(Services)	No records available.				

1945-1959

YEAR	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
CASES (Civilians)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	2	1	4	1	—
(Imported)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	* 1 (1 death)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Services)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 (1 death)	8	4	1	1	4	5	—

*Disease not confirmed — Caused by a blood dyscrasia.

Influenza

Influenza-like infections were prevalent during the first quarter of the year but did not assume epidemic proportions. The illness appeared to be mild or moderately severe though highly infectious. As the disease is not notifiable, it was not possible to assess the true incidence.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases with Age and Sex Incidence — Civil Population 1959

Notifiable Diseases	NUMBER OF CASES														Districts		No. of cases removed to Hospital		
	All Ages	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 and under 25 years		25 and under 45 years		45 and under 65 years		65 and over		North		Central	South
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Measles	660	9	5	137	150	174	168	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	78	357	225	13
Rubella	15	3	2	2	1	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	4	1
Mumps	183	—	3	19	13	82	50	4	3	4	5	—	—	—	—	15	95	73	6
Pertussis	85	3	5	20	29	15	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	48	28	—
Chicken Pox	60	—	1	7	11	19	21	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51	9	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	16	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	2	3	5	—	—	—	4	9	3	15
Dysentery	25	1	—	3	5	3	3	1	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	18	7	—
Diphtheria	6	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	—
Enteric Fever	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	1
Scarlet Fever	13	—	—	—	2	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—
Undulant Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal																			
Meningitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	1,075	16	16	193	212	307	262	9	17	8	17	8	8	2	—	110	607	358	42

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Incidence — Civil Population 1959

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Measles	4	20	113	137	252	201	51	504	11	8	—	19	—	—	—	—	660	—
Rubella	—	—	8	8	4	—	2	6	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	15	—
Mumps	—	2	—	2	3	13	32	48	39	20	16	75	22	21	15	58	183	—
Pertussis	10	7	18	35	26	17	1	44	3	3	—	6	—	—	—	—	85	—
Chicken Pox	2	9	20	31	18	8	1	27	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	60	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	3	2	6	2	—	1	3	1	—	—	1	5	—	1	6	16	1
Dysentery	—	1	3	4	2	1	3	6	—	1	—	1	5	4	5	14	25	—
Diphtheria	2	1	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	6	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	2	—	2	5	—
Enteric Fever	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	4	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	1	3	2	6	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	21	45	165	231	310	246	94	650	58	34	17	109	34	28	23	85	1,075	1

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Return of Cases Landed from the Bay or Brought into Town for Treatment, 1959

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mumps	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Chicken Pox	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	2	—	4	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	8	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	5	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS	5	2	—	7	1	1	—	2	1	2	5	8	1	1	1	3	20	2

INVESTIGATION AND CONTROL OF INSECT VECTORS OF DISEASE

Flies

These insects have not been a serious source of nuisances during 1959; only a few isolated breeding places were found and promptly eliminated.

Occasionally *Fannia Canicularis*, also known as the lesser house fly, have proved troublesome with their ceaseless aimless circling in the centre of rooms or round some hanging object. As unlike the common house fly they seldom alight on food, utensils or the human skin, they are more a nuisance than dangerous as a source of infection.

I must again appeal for co-operation from the public in preventing the indiscriminate dumping of rubble, rubbish, food refuse and such litter in odd nooks and corners which is not only unsightly and offensive but also constitute an attraction to flies.

Routine measures for the control of flies were intensified during the spring and summer, particular attention being devoted to the abatement of the nuisances noted above and to the care of dustbins.

Five hundred and eighty-four gallons of a five per cent solution of DDT prepared in the Public Health Department for use in sprayers were sold to the public.

Mosquitoes

These insects proved a source of nuisances in the North, South and to a lesser extent the upper Town Districts during the spring and summer. The Lower and Middle districts were singularly free from them. Out of a total of two hundred and thirty-two breeding places which were destroyed, one hundred and eighty-one were found in the North and South districts.

Measures for the control of these insects were carried out in close co-ordination with the Services sanitarians by the regular staff of the Public Health Department without the employment of extra personnel.

Ninety-six specimens were taken for investigation, the following species being found:—

<i>Culex pipiens</i>	70 (January to December).
<i>Theobaldia longiareolata</i>	26 (April to December).
<i>Aedes argenteus</i>	Nil.

For nine consecutive years no insect of the species *Aedes Argenteus* has been identified. This mosquito which is a vector of Yellow Fever is indigenous in the neighbourhood and because of the possibility of the species being again introduced from this source, Gibraltar continues to be designated a Yellow Fever receptive area under the International Sanitary Regulations.

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN 1959

Months	Visits paid to Premises	Breeding Places Found—by Districts					Totals
		Town Lower	Town Middle	Town Upper	South	North	
January	1,504	—	—	1	—	11	12
February	1,511	—	—	1	—	6	7
March	1,218	—	—	—	—	5	5
April	1,400	1	1	6	1	6	15
May	1,718	1	—	3	5	20	29
June	1,495	2	—	15	23	46	86
July	1,233	3	—	2	7	12	24
August	1,250	2	—	3	2	16	23
September	1,296	3	2	1	2	3	11
October	1,684	—	—	2	2	6	10
November	1,369	—	—	—	—	7	7
December	1,231	—	—	2	—	1	3
Totals ...	16,909	12	3	36	42	139	232

Breeding places found consisted of:—Flower vases, iron drums, street gullies, galvanised iron water tanks, storm water drains, yard gullies, barges, etc.

RODENT CONTROL

Unremitting control of the rodent population continued to be exercised by the Council's Rodent Extermination Department in close co-operation with the services staff throughout the year, thus ensuring efficiency as well as economy in the use of materials available.

Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic which long experience has proved to be the most effective poisons under local conditions, continued to be employed in all routine operations, but progressively increasing use has been made of Warfarin when circumstances were considered favourable to the action of this rodenticide. It was used exclusively in all Naval and Air Ministry's premises.

Sewers and storm water drains were disinfested on several occasions with good results, and electricity and telephone pits when deemed necessary.

Though judging from the preponderance of carcasses of mice over those of rats recovered, the former would appear to be the major factor in the infestation by these vermin, it is evident from the occasional finding of isolated foci of infestation by rats that no relaxation of the anti-rodent measures can be contemplated.

The carcasses of six rats were examined in the Council's Public Health Laboratories and reported free from plague bacilli.

Eleven ships were inspected and Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued under the provisions of the International Sanitary Regulations.

The Anti-Rat Co-ordinating Committee which includes representatives of the City Council's, Port, Naval, Army and Air Ministry's Health Services met twice during the year.

The following tables show details of treatment carried out by the Rodent Control Services during the year:—

RODENT CONTROL — SUMMARY OF TREATMENT BY COMBINED SERVICES DURING THE YEAR 1959.

Service	No. of Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
Civilian	329	13,238	9,190	4,854	57	—	827	1,225
Military	118	13,149	3,343	1,338	13	—	110	444
Sewers and Drains	92 manholes	368	231	174	—	—	—	208
TOTALS	539	26,755	12,764	6,366	70	—	937	1,877

RODENT CONTROL — SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN PREMISES DURING 1959.

Campaign Week	Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
1/59 to 13/59	89	3,563	2,301	1,143	4	—	164	312
14/59 to 26/59	76	3,432	2,385	1,316	4	—	224	298
27/59 to 39/59	86	3,285	2,249	1,226	44	—	226	330
40/59 to 51/59	78	2,958	2,255	1,169	5	—	213	285
TOTALS ...	329	13,238	9,190	4,854	57	—	827	1,225

RODENT CONTROL—TREATMENT OF SEWERS, AND DRAINS DURING THE YEAR 1959.

Campaign Week	Date	Manholes Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
						RR	RN	MM	
34/59	17/8/59-21/8/59	7	28	28	18	—	—	—	11
35/59	24/8/59-28/8/59	10	40	40	19	—	—	—	26
36/59	31/8/59-4/9/59	10	40	40	40	—	—	—	50
38/59	14/9/59-18/9/59	10	40	20	20	—	—	—	25
39/59	21/9/59-25/9/59	10	40	18	12	—	—	—	15
40/59	28/9/59-2/10/59	10	40	20	14	—	—	—	17
41/59	5/10/59-9/10/59	10	40	20	12	—	—	—	15
42/59	12/10/59-16/10/59	10	40	15	14	—	—	—	18
43/59	19/10/59-23/10/59	10	40	20	15	—	—	—	19
44/59	26/10/59-30/10/59	5	20	10	10	—	—	—	12
TOTALS ...		92	368	231	174	—	—	—	208

NAVAL RODENT CONTROL — GIBRALTAR
Period 19th January — 27th November, 1959.

Areas	Description of Areas treated	Date	Number of Points Laid	Number of Points Discontinued.	Number of Points discontinued at 3rd week	Bait & Base used	Carcasses Found		
							R.R.	R.N.	M.M.
Nos. 1-16	Open areas, sheds, residences, work-shops and Shell stores.	19.1.59-1.5.59.	4,528	3,151	1,317	(Sorex 5) 0.5% 1 Part.	—	4	21
Nos. 1-16	Open areas, sheds, residences, work-shops and Shell stores.	4.5.59-14.8.59.	3,338	2,255	1,041	Oatmeal Medium 19 Parts	—	5	33
Nos. 1-16	Open areas, sheds, residences, work-shops and Shell stores.	17. 8.59-27.11.59.	2,598	1,574	985		—	16	71
	Totals ...		10,464	6,980	3,343		—	25	125

PORT HEALTH WORK

Maritime

The Colonial Government are responsible for the control of the port health work which is carried out by two medical practitioners employed part time as Health Officers, together with a number of Boarding Officers under the administrative direction of the Captain of the Port.

Under the provisions of the Quarantine Ordinance, the Medical Officer of Health is also vested with the status of a Health Officer and is thereby empowered to board ships, examine persons suspected of suffering or who are suffering from infectious diseases, and impose quarantine restrictions if and when necessary.

I am indebted to the Captain of the Port for the following information relating to the work of this Department during 1959:—

Number of ships entered during 1959	5,303
Number of medical visits to ships	177
Number of ships inspected by a Health Officer, admitted to pratique or placed in quarantine	Nil
Number of patients landed,	
from British ships	46
from Foreign ships	88

Three of these patients were suffering or suspected to be suffering from infectious diseases.

Air

The Air Port is under the control of the Royal Air Force, and the Senior Medical Officer, who is vested with the status and powers of a Health Officer, is responsible for matters concerning the sanitation of the port and of all service aircraft.

The Colonial Government are responsible for the sanitary control, disinfection and disinsectization of Civil Aircraft. The duties concerned are performed by a Colonial Government Medical Officer as part of his general duties under the administrative direction of the Chief Medical Officer who is vested with the status and powers of a Health Officer. Under the provisions of the Quarantine Ordinance the Medical Officer of Health is also vested with the status of a Health Officer in respect of the Air Port.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to the City Engineer, Mr. W. E. Chiappe, M.I.C.E., A.M.I. Mun. E., for assistance in the preparation of this part of the report.

WATER SUPPLY

Potable Water

The population obtain potable water by two methods: (a) from roof catchments and underground tanks attached to each individual house, and (b) from City Council's supply. The latter is distributed mainly direct by pipes through permanent meters, but a small proportion is drawn by bucket or barrel from the Council's street fountains. The demand for supplies from fountains is decreasing in consequence of the large number of premises which are being provided with direct supplies from the City Council mains. In addition potable water is supplied to private underground tanks during the dry season through temporary meters and flexible hoses and in smaller quantities by tank lorry to those consumers whose premises are not within a reasonable distance from the distributing mains.

All barrels are sterilized at weekly intervals. The public health staff are constantly on the watch for possible pollution of underground tanks. Eighty-three samples from suspected tanks and other sources were taken in 1959.

The year started with a reasonable stock of potable water in the reservoirs and thanks to exceptionally heavy rain in February and late rains in April/May the dry season started with substantial stocks in the reservoirs. Three million gallons of potable water were imported by tanker in August, heavy rains in late October and continuous rain in November and December making further importation unnecessary, though stocks at the end of the year were well below the desired figure.

Pumping from potable water wells was steadily maintained at the average level but only one evaporator could be occasionally used. The yield from this source was just under two and a half million gallons over a prolonged period.

The Base Exchange Water Softening Plant continued to function throughout the year. The hardness of well water is reduced from approximately thirty-two degrees to zero,

then blended with raw water to the optimum degree of hardness, viz:—ten degrees. The blended water after chloramination is pumped into a service tank and then lifted into the Council's reservoirs for distribution to the public, after it has been subjected to a bacteriological examination to establish its purity.

60,171,413 gallons were issued during the year from various Council's sources.

Rainfall at the catchments during the calendar year 1959 totalled 26.19 inches.

The supply of boiler water to Shipping from Council's sources at the Watering Jetty was maintained throughout the year.

Brackish Water

Brackish water is supplied by the Council for general sanitary purposes, fire fighting and other requirements.

The quantity of brackish water pumped during the year amounted to some four hundred and seven million gallons.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

Domestic refuse is collected and disposed of daily by the City Council.

In addition to an average of 30 tons of domestic refuse which is collected by the Council's scavenging lorries, approximately 6 tons of trade refuse, consisting of tobacco dust, wood shavings, sawdust, waste paper, coffee waste, condemned foods and other materials are carried by private lorries to the Refuse Destructor and burnt every day.

Sewage Disposal

The whole of the sewage of Gibraltar eventually discharges into the sea at Europa Point Outfall.

Numerous storm overflows exist along the line of the main sewer and come into operation during times of heavy floods. The configuration of the Rock is such that very large volumes of storm water rapidly reach the lower levels and the main sewer is then taxed to the utmost. The rate of run-off is such that during heavy rains boulders and much silt reach the sewers.

The quantity of sewage and storm water pumped from the low level during 1959 amounted to approximately 198,000,000 gallons.

Public Highways and Street Cleansing

Full use was made of the Asphalt mixing plant installed at Catalan Bay Depot, and hot and cold asphalt for resurfacing of roads, re-instatements and other purposes, was produced.

Road improvements in Cumberland Road and along Rosia Road from the bottom of Red Sands Road to New Mole Parade were completed early in 1959, and the Road to Spain from Runway to Bayside Road was realigned and resurfaced.

Other public highways were maintained in as good a condition as possible, patching and potholing being carried out as and when circumstances permitted. Several carriage-ways were resurfaced in asphalt.

Flushing of streets was carried out periodically and intensified during the dry season.

Sweeping of streets was done in the normal way and a high degree of cleanliness was maintained.

Public Baths

The Tarik hot and cold fresh water slipper baths were open throughout the year and the Sea Bathing Establishment at Montagu continued to be well patronized in summer. Fresh water shower baths introduced a few years ago have become increasingly popular.

Eastern Beach and Camp Bay which are much favoured by the residents are controlled by the City Council during the bathing season. The beaches are patrolled by a boat throughout the day and chalets provided with sanitary accommodation are available free of charge to bathers for use as changing rooms. These are kept open until half an hour after sunset.

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORATE

Thirteen thousand, one hundred and twenty-three house-to-house inspections were carried out by the Health Officers during the year, in the course of which two thousand, eight hundred and eighty-four nuisances were discovered, and three thousand and eighty-eight visits were subsequently paid to ensure that the nuisances reported had been effectively abated.

These inspections included four hundred and forty-seven investigations carried out at the request of the Commissioner of Lands and Works for the purpose of reporting on the living conditions of applicants for accommodation in Government-owned premises or following complaints made to the Public Health Department by persons living in overcrowded homes, also six hundred and seventy-one to determine the fitness of apartments for subletting referred to the Department by the authorities concerned.

The epidemic of Measles and minor outbreaks of other infectious diseases described elsewhere in this Report entailed six hundred and fifty-one visits to investigate cases and enforce preventive measures which together with one hundred and fifty-eight visits to a Camp where certain foreign emigrants in transit through Gibraltar are housed, severely taxed the resources of the Public Health Department.

Food catering establishments, ice-cream factories, dairies and mineral water factories were inspected on one thousand, four hundred and seventy-six occasions, and sixty-three samples of food and drugs were taken and analyzed in the Public Health Laboratories.

Eighty-three samples of water were taken from the Council's public fountains, private underground tanks and other sources and submitted to the Laboratories for bacteriological investigation.

Two hundred and seventy-eight statutory notices were served and legal proceedings were instituted in nine cases for non-compliance with the requirements of such notices. Legal proceedings were also instituted against a purveyor of milk for selling milk which did not conform with the Milk and Dairies Bye-Laws standards.

Eleven ships were inspected and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued under the provisions of the International Sanitary Regulations.

Summary of Work done by the Public Health Inspectors

Complaints Received:

Written	1
Verbal	626

Premises Inspected:

House-to-house inspection	13,123
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Statutory Notices:

Served	278
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Nuisances Found:

Defective drains	158
Obstructed drains	360
Defective W.Cs	55
Defective W.C. fittings	519
Defective water fittings	143
Defective rainwater pipes	21
Defective eavesgutters	77
Defective roofs	143
Defective ceilings	37
Defective wall plaster	56
Defective floors	37
Defective yard paving	6
Dampness	38
Premises dirty	84
Defective or no dustbin	226
Other minor defects	924
Underground tank not insect proof	7
Brackish water tank not insect proof or no cover ...	2
Brackish water running to waste	187
Smoke and soot nuisance	11
Street water fittings found defective	97
Premises disinfected for infectious disease	16
Premises disinfected for vermin, etc.	26
Articles disinfected at Disinfection Station	13,051
Visits of enquiry re Infectious Disease	651

Cases removed in Ambulance:

Local	314
Bay	81
Samples of water taken for analysis	83
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	63
Foodstuffs, etc., condemned as unsound. Vide Page...	56
Visits to eating houses, bakeries, shops, etc.	1,355

Visits to mineral water factories	121
Visits to hairdressers and barber shops	158
Visits to premises to ascertain if nuisances reported are being abated	3,088
Visits to Refugee Camp	158
Inspection of Vessels (Deratting Exemption Certificates)	11
Vaccination notices served	24
Legal proceedings instituted	10

Lodging Houses:

There are no common lodging houses in Gibraltar.

FOOD IN RELATION TO HEALTH AND DISEASE

The Public Markets

The levelling and resurfacing of the open alleys and courts in the Markets was virtually completed. Only a few small areas which proved unsatisfactory after repairs remain to be dealt with.

After a number of small scale experiments, a section of the Meat Hall was resurfaced with material which is considered will stand the hard wear and tear to which it is normally subjected. Completion of the work was deferred pending the results of this trial.

Food

Supplies of food have been adequate throughout the year.

Meat

All supplies of beef, mutton, veal, pork and offal were imported frozen from Australia, the United Kingdom, Argentine, Denmark and Holland by the butchers. Retail prices varied according to kind and country of origin.

Small consignments of fresh Kosher meat and mutton were imported regularly by special arrangements from Spain and Tangiers for the use of the Hebrew Community.

All meat must be accompanied by an official certificate from the Health Authority of the country of origin and it is again inspected by the Markets Inspectors before it is allowed to be sold to the public.

Adequate supplies of poultry, and game when in season were imported from Spain throughout the year. Frozen poultry was imported from Denmark and Holland and rabbits from Australia.

Eggs

Supplies of eggs imported from Spain, Morocco and Holland were adequate throughout the year.

Fish

Though supplies were subject to fluctuations depending on weather conditions and other circumstances, they were generally adequate. An average of 2,220 pounds of fish

consistently fresh and of good quality were imported daily from Spain. Small consignments were also brought in by local fishing boats.

Retail prices though high compared favourably with those obtaining in the Spanish markets. All fish was inspected by the Markets Inspectors before it was exposed for sale in the Markets or allowed to be taken out for sale in the streets by licensed itinerant vendors.

There was no change in the average number of vendors licensed which remained at twenty-eight.

Fruit and Vegetables

Abundant supplies of excellent quality were imported from Spain daily and sold in the Markets, shops in town and in the streets by licensed itinerant vendors.

The number of such vendors was fifty.

Retail prices were disproportionately high compared with those current in the Spanish markets.

Milk

The amount of fresh milk consumed by the public is negligible, condensed or evaporated tinned varieties are the staple products commonly used.

From fifty to one hundred litres of fresh milk were imported from Spain daily, which in accordance with the City Council Milk and Dairies Bye-Laws must be heated to a temperature of 200°F for twenty minutes before it is sold to the public.

Of samples which were taken regularly only one was found not to conform with the statutory requirements and legal proceedings were instituted against the purveyor who was convicted and fined.

Small quantities of sterilized or pasteurized fresh milk were imported tinned or deep frozen solid from the United Kingdom and reconstituted milk processed locally from skimmed milk powder by the addition of edible fats and vitamins, and subsequently pasteurized was also available during the year.

Groceries

Supplies of groceries imported from the United Kingdom and other countries have been adequate and generally of satisfactory quality.

Ice-Cream

All premises wherein ice-creams are manufactured must be registered with the City Council in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Ordinance, and registration is subject to the premises and equipment being declared satisfactory by the Medical Officer of Health.

Registered premises were visited frequently by the Department's Inspectors and samples taken and subjected to the Methylene Blue Test as approved by the Ministry of Health in the United Kingdom. The number of samples from some establishments which failed to attain a satisfactory grade consistently has this year been rather disquieting and required repeated visits and warnings from the Inspectors to ensure improvement. Failure to attain satisfactory standards is mainly due to the elaboration of the products being delegated by the owners to employees who are ignorant of the most elementary principles of hygiene and do not exert the meticulous care essential in the manufacture and serving of these commodities.

Considerable quantities of ice-creams manufactured by reputable firms in Great Britain were also imported regularly during the hot season. The sale of these products is conditional to their being sold in the original sealed wrappers or containers as issued by the manufacturers, and subject to the same sanitary requirements as those produced locally.

Samples of these ice-creams were taken regularly and found satisfactory on bacteriological examination.

The sale of ice-creams in the streets, sports grounds and other public places by itinerant vendors is strictly controlled. The products must be sold in the original wrappers and the vehicles used must be submitted for inspection and approval before licenses are issued.

Eating Houses, Confectioneries and Cafes

All premises wherein food is prepared by any process of cooking or which are used for the manufacture or preservation of food products as well as purveyors and vendors of refreshments, confectionery, cakes, sweets and shell fish must be registered with the City Council.

All food catering establishments were inspected regularly at frequent intervals by the Department's Inspectors who paid one thousand, three hundred and fifty-five visits during the year and who availed themselves of all such opportunities to advise owners and employees on food hygiene.

Though the standards of cleanliness and food hygiene in the majority of the establishments are satisfactory, there is ample scope for improvement in the preparation of snacks in some of the cafes and smaller snack bars and particularly in the handling of groceries in some grocers' shops which leaves much to be desired. Overcrowding and frequent changes of employees who lack the training and whose ideas of hygiene generally do not concur with accepted modern standards are the main factors which often face the Inspectorate in their efforts to attain improvements.

Food Poisoning

Three outbreaks of food poisoning all at private social functions occurred during the year.

The first occurred in August at a club dinner when twenty-five out of thirty-six persons who attended were taken ill with acute abdominal pains, diarrhoea and vomiting associated in a few cases with pyrexia, from eight to twenty-four hours after partaking of the meal. No notifications were received and the occurrence was only brought to light because one of the victims happened to be a Public Health Department Inspector. Though investigations were promptly started, there were no remnants of the food left. The persons affected had all recovered and no pathogenic bacteria were found in some specimens of faeces which were examined. The meal which included swordfish, prawns and mayonnaise had been prepared at a cafe where conditions were reasonably satisfactory. As all the persons affected had eaten the mayonnaise, whilst those who escaped, though they otherwise partook of the other foods, had abstained from it, it is probable that the mayonnaise may have been the cause of the outbreak.

The second outbreak occurred at a wedding reception in September when sixty-nine persons out of some five hundred invited were notified as suffering from food poisoning. The symptoms appeared from five to twenty-four hours after the meal and included violent abdominal pains, vomiting and profuse diarrhoea, in a number of cases the attacks being so severe as to cause collapse. Two patients, one an elderly diabetic who had undergone a partial gastrectomy a few weeks before, were admitted to hospital, but there were no fatalities. A bewildering variety of foodstuffs, many of which had been prepared days before, and the large number of food handlers involved rendered investigations very difficult and as most of the food had been consumed or given away, the specimens of remnants available for bacteriological investigation were meagre and not representative.

The symptoms and course of the attacks suggested a staphylococcal aetiology, but this organism was conspicuous for its absence in both the foodstuffs and the specimens of faeces obtained from acutely ill patients which were examined bacteriologically. Some of these faeces consisted of almost pure blood and in four instances rendered a pure culture of *Pseudomona Pyocyanea*. This organism was also isolated in pure culture from the contents of an egg paste sandwich. Investigations for *Shigellae* and *Salmonellae* proved fruitless. It is of interest to note that a pure culture of *Ps. Pyocyanea* was also obtained from the faeces of two persons, a husband and wife, who about this time suffered from acute food poisoning after a meal consisting only of lightly boiled allegedly fresh eggs. This familial incident had no connection with the outbreaks in question.

As eggs appeared to be a common factor in these outbreaks, a number were examined bacteriologically but the results were inconclusive.

The third outbreak occurred at a children's birthday party which was held the day after the one described above, and involved nine persons mostly children. The symptoms were very mild and transient, and no pathogens were found in specimens of faeces from two of the victims. The only common factor between these two outbreaks was a reputable caterer of long standing. Neither this man nor any of the persons involved in handling the food in these outbreaks whom it was possible to trace admitted having been ill or showed evidence of any suppurative lesions.

Though the results of painstaking investigations were unfortunately because of circumstances inconclusive, the acuteness and severity of the symptoms, the haemorrhagic character of the stools and the luxuriant growths in pure culture of *Pyocyanea* obtained from very small inocula from faeces and food in the second outbreak cannot be lightly discarded nor the possibility however remote of these organisms having been the cause of the poisoning definitely excluded.

Ps. Pyocyanea are known to be widely distributed in nature, have been found at times in normal skin, particularly the axilla and perineum and have not infrequently been incriminated as the cause of suppurative affections of the skin and middle-ear. They have also been reported to have caused necrotic and ulcerative lesions of the alimentary mucosa, acute and rapidly fatal infantile diarrhoea and to have often infected wounds, but so far as I am aware there are no records of their having been incriminated as having caused an outbreak of food poisoning.

An isolated case of food poisoning in a child aged nine years caused by Salmonella Typhimurium was also notified. The source of the infection was not determined.

Condemnation of Food

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and condemned:—

	Health Department Inspectors	Market Inspectors
Frozen Veal		307 pounds
Cod		40 „
Bream		30 „
Luncheon Meat		8 „ tinned
Mutton		944 „
Offal		90 „
Liver		8 „
Tinned Hams		245 „
Sword Fish		6 „
Beef		876 „
Fowls		188 „
Bacon		9 „
Tinned Ham	1,591 pounds	
Luncheon Meat	1,765 „	
Gammon	189 „	
Pigs' Trotters	1,624 „	
Ox Tongue	96 „	
Corned Beef	90 „	
“Salami”	293 „	
Brawn	12 „	
Pork Sausages	975 „	
Beef Sausages	134 „	
Bacon	102½ „	
Italian Sausages	16 „	
Frozen Chickens	158½ „	
Smoked Herrings	456 „	
Liver Paste	8 „	
Fish Fillets	720 „	
Frozen Sardines	11,660 „	
Cheese	354 „	
Tomato Soup	1,243 packets	
Salmon	119 pounds	
Shrimp Sauce	6 „	
Jelly Veal	6 „	

	Health Department Inspectors	Market Inspectors
Alimentary Paste	2,126 pounds	
Marmalade	8	„
Cakes and Confectionery	152	„
Tinned Pears	32	„
Tinned Beans	12	„

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

A block comprising twenty flats at Naval Hospital Road and one of forty flats at Lake Chad which in pursuance of the Government Housing Scheme were placed under construction in 1958, were completed and put into service in 1959, whilst another of seventy flats which was also started at Lake Chad in that year is nearing completion and it is envisaged will be ready for occupation in 1960. One extra flat was provided at North Pavilion Road by division of an existing tenement.

By the demolition of six Nissen Huts at Isolation Hospital Site, space was provided for five blocks comprising a total of one hundred flats, the erection of which was started as soon as the ground was cleared.

A new Isolation Hospital for the major pestilential diseases has been constructed on the Upper Rock and the site of the old hospital which had gradually been encroached on rendering the hospital isolated only in name, together with the adjacent land is now available for development as a residential area.

Certain barracks which are obsolete and are no longer required by the Services have been handed over to the Colonial Government. The land provided by the demolition of these barracks together with other sites which it is envisaged will become available will be used to erect dwellings it is hoped at the rate of two hundred flats a year from 1960 to 1961.

One thousand and forty dwellings have been constructed since the war which is a considerable achievement, and it is gratifying to note that the "tempo" and building has increased from fifty at the beginning to two hundred a year.

Notwithstanding the houses which have been built, there are still one thousand, two hundred and twelve families in the waiting list for accommodation and these do not include others who because of financial or other reasons have not applied for houses.

The shortage of houses which has occurred since the war is not peculiar to Gibraltar, and the following extract from "PUBLIC HEALTH" — October 1959 (The Journal of the Society of Medical Officers of Health) is significant of the almost unsurmountable difficulties which as in our own case are being experienced by authorities concerned with housing in the United Kingdom:—

"The picture of too many people seeking too few houses is part of the regular pattern of British life and

those M.O.s H. who came into office after 1939 have never known any other. It is true that waiting lists have apparently grown shorter in the last few years, but this is in large part due to the adoption by over-burdened authorities of drastic and arbitrary criteria which have removed from the lists whole categories of applicants who, though their need was substantial, had very poor prospects of early consideration. The amount of reduction in the lists which has come from the actual meeting of needs is, though often appreciable, by no means great, and new applicants join the tail of the queue almost as fast as — sometimes even faster than — those at the head move into their new dwellings.”

The following table kindly furnished by the Commissioner of Lands and Works details the progress of the Government Housing Scheme during 1959:—

Houses Completed

Naval Hospital Road	20 flats
Lake Chad, Block 6	40 „
	<hr/>
	60 flats
	<hr/>

Houses under Construction

Lake Chad, Block 5	70 flats
Isolation Hospital Site — 5 Blocks	100 „
	<hr/>
	170 flats
	<hr/>

Addition by way of Division

1 Flat at 5 North Pavilion Road	1 flat
---------------------------------------	--------

No temporary houses were constructed and 6 Nissen Huts (12 tenements) were removed from the Isolation Site.

Town Planning

The Central Planning Commission appointed under the provisions of the Building (Interim Control) Ordinance continued to meet regularly during the year. At these Meetings plans for the erection of new buildings, improvements to existing structures and other constructional projects were considered. The said Ordinance does not in any way detract from the powers vested in the City Council by the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance, and eighty-six applications for permission to erect structural alterations to existing premises or to erect new buildings were considered and reported on under these powers.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The City Council maintains a fleet of three ambulances which though primarily intended for the conveyance of persons suffering from infectious diseases, constitutes the only official Ambulance Service for the conveyance of civilian patients from Town, those landed from the Bay, and by special arrangements from Spain.

A total of three hundred and ninety-five patients, three hundred and fourteen from Town and eighty-one from the Bay were conveyed in the Council's Ambulances during the year which represents a considerable increase in the number of town cases amounting to eighty-four trips compared with 1958 when three hundred and twelve patients, two hundred and thirty from Town and eighty-two from the Bay were transported.

Fifteen of these patients, twelve from Town and three from the Bay were suffering or suspected to be suffering from infectious diseases, the others had been involved in accidents or were suffering from non-infectious conditions.

	Local Cases	Bay Cases
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1
Pneumonia	7	1
Measles	2	—
Chicken Pox	1	—
Dysentery	—	1
Meningitis	1	—
Diphtheria	1	—
Appendicitis	5	6
Mental Cases	17	—
Maternity Cases	6	1
Cardio Vascular Diseases	59	3
Cancer	3	—
Food Poisoning	2	—
Fractures and Injuries	33	24
Miscellaneous (medical and surgical cases)	177	44
	<hr/> 314 <hr/>	<hr/> 81 <hr/>

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., continued to be carried out at the Disinfection Station in Line Wall Road.

There was a welcome decrease in the number of water vendors' barrels disinfected. These barrels are steam disinfected and sealed every week in accordance with the Council's Bye-Laws and as more dwellings are being provided with a piped City Council water supply, the number of vendors is steadily declining.

The total number of articles disinfected shows a marked increase due principally to disinfection of old clothes, mattresses and other similar articles which have been imported for sale or otherwise to be used in Gibraltar, and the introduction of which is conditional to their being disinfected at the Council's Disinfection Station in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance.

Table below gives details of the work done at the Station during 1959.

Months	Beds and Matt- resses	Bolsters and Pillows	Blankets and Quilts	Sheets	Coun- ter panes	Water Vend- ors' Barrels	Sun- dries	Totals
January	4	4	8	2	—	122	496	636
February	2	2	7	3	2	109	399	524
March	—	—	—	—	—	125	10	135
April	1	2	6	2	1	106	745	863
May	—	—	10	—	—	106	322	438
June	6	10	659	4	2	106	300	1,087
July	—	—	—	—	—	112	1,250	1,362
August	—	—	4	—	—	112	3,475	3,591
September	50	51	72	8	42	340	1,290	1,853
October	186	1	6	2	—	112	500	807
November	6	4	6	4	—	142	940	1,102
December	—	—	13	—	—	140	500	653
Totals	255	74	791	25	47	1,632	10,227	13,051

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL

One hundred and fifty-four Council employees were medically examined during the year, an increase of forty compared with the preceding year. The majority were routine examinations to determine the fitness of applicants for employment, a few were for the purpose of making recommendations related to retirement from the Council's service for reasons of health.

Applicants suspected of suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were referred to the Colonial Government Medical Specialist at King George V. Hospital for radiological examination.

January	8
February	7
March	4
April	11
May	57
June	20
July	12
August	10
September	6
October	8
November	6
December	5
<hr/>	
Total ...	154
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OTHER MATTERS CONCERNED WITH THE HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

Board of Health

The Advisory Board of Health is a statutory Board constituted by the Governor under the powers vested in him by the Public Health Ordinance and is the principal co-ordinating body in medical matters between the Medical Services of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, the Colonial Government Medical Service, and the Public Health Service.

The following is a brief summary of the subjects discussed and on which recommendations were made at meetings which were held regularly throughout the year:—

Advisability of embarking on a mass free anti-poliomyelitis vaccination of children and the extension of facilities to doctors, nurses and other hospital personnel exposed to infection, and to expectant mothers.

Control of dogs and compulsory anti-rabic vaccination of these animals.

Need of enacting legislation regarding litter.

Provision of a new Hospital for the isolation and treatment of the quarantinable diseases.

Immunization of children against Diphtheria.

Smoke nuisances.

Organization of a Central Syringe Service Depot.

Control of narcotics, sedatives and tranquilizers.

General Practitioners Service

The number of medical practitioners engaged in general practice appearing on the register on the 31st December, 1959 remained same as on the corresponding date of 1958; eight, providing a ratio of approximately 1 to 3,200 population.

Four hold part-time appointments with the Colonial Government. Two in connection with the Hospital Services, the others as Port Medical Officers.

District Medical Services

A medical officer of the Colonial Hospital assisted by two district nurses provides medical treatment and care for the indigent sick and the aged at a special clinic held daily in the Exchange Buildings and by domiciliary visits when necessary.

Dentists

The number of civilian dentists appearing on the register on the 31st December, 1959 was six. Four hold qualifications obtained in Great Britain, the others have been trained and licensed to practice in Gibraltar. Two dentists are employed part-time with the Colonial Government to attend to school children.

Nursing Services

The number of nurses included in the register under the provisions of the Nurses Registration Regulations on the 31st December, 1959 was twenty-five, an increase of five over the preceding year. Thirteen are females and twelve males. Two of the female nurses are State Registered but are no longer in practice, the rest have been trained in the Government Nurses Training School at the Colonial Hospital and registered after passing the prescribed examinations. All are employed at the Colonial Hospital.

The training of recruits at the school continued throughout the year and twelve students are pursuing the necessary studies in the United Kingdom to obtain the State Registration Certificate.

The number of midwives registered under the Midwives Ordinance who continue to practice remained at five.

These figures do not include the Colonial Nursing Sisters.

Two district nurses attend indigent patients under the direction of the District Medical Officer, otherwise there are no qualified nurses engaged in domiciliary work.

There is a dire need for nurses who will undertake the nursing of patients in their homes, but none appear to be attracted to this essential service.

Legislation relevant to Medical and Public Interests enacted during the year

Family Allowances Ordinance, 1959 and Regulations made under the powers conferred thereby provide for the payment of family allowances.

This is the most important legislation from the social and medical aspects enacted during the year.

Amendments to the Colonial Hospital Rules, 1955 include inter alia a proviso that no fee be payable by any person in respect of any attendance at an ante-natal clinic.

Orders made by the Governor under the powers vested in him by the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance prescribe that Part III of the Ordinance shall apply to a number of drugs scheduled in the Orders to their salts, and to any preparation, admixture, extract or other substance containing any proportion of the drugs.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT AT THE LABORATORIES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF GIBRALTAR.

INVESTIGATIONS		Civil	Colonial Hospital	K.G.V. Hospital	Navy	Military	Total
BLOOD							
(1) Cytological — (Red bes, white bes, absolute figures platelet, eosinophile, reticulocyte, differential counts, myelogram, colour index, fragility of red bes, L.E. cells, bleeding time, coagulation time, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, packed cell volume, film for malarial parasites).		1,279	2,802	2,504	—	—	6,585
(2) Biochemistry — (Determination of urea, sugar, glucose tolerance test, calcium, uric acid, cholesterol, acid phosphatase, alkaline phosphatase, total plasma proteins, albumin, globulin, A/G ratio, Van den Bergh, bilirubin, thymol turbidity, thymol flocculation, zinc sulphate turbidity, Schumm's test, carbon monoxide, Serum Glutamic Oxalacetic Transaminase, Determination of Prothrombin time).		809	1,506	1,784	1	3	4,053
(3) Bacteriology — (Cultures for Salmonella group, etc).		16	21	24	—	—	61
(4) Serology — (Wassermann test, Khan test, Gonococcal Complement Fixation test, Agglutinations, Cold agglutinins, Paul-Bunnell, Weil Felix).		354	1,001	591	2	36	1,984
(5) Transfusion — (ABO grouping, Rhesus grouping, Cross match, Compatibility tests, Direct and Indirect Coombs test, Detection and Titration of Antibodies).		16	1,236	136	—	—	1,388
(6) Electrolytes — (Sodium, Potassium, Chlorides (as NaCl), Carbon Dioxide Combining Power.		14	39	144	—	59	256
CEREBRO-SPINAL FLUID		—	18	21	—	—	39
(1) Cytological — (Cells and differential counts).		—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Biochemistry — (Determination of Total proteins, Albumin, Globulin, Sugar, Urea, Lange Colloid Gold Curve).		—	46	68	—	—	114
(3) Bacteriology — (Cultures for Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Neisseria Meningitidis, Wassermann Reaction).		—	9	15	—	—	24
(4) Direct exams. — (Ziehl-Neelsen stain for Myco, tuberculosis, Gram's stain for N. meningitidis and other micro-organisms).		—	11	10	—	—	21
HISTO PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS on specimens removed at surgical operations.		13	254	10	—	—	277
SWABS — PUS							
(1) Bacteriology — (Cultures for Corynebacterium diphtheriae, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Neisseria gonorrhoeae and other micro-organisms).		172	143	34	—	—	349
(2) Direct exams. — (Ziehl-Neelsen stain for Myco. tuberculosis, Gram's stain for N. Gonorrhoeae and other micro-organisms).		95	48	5	—	—	148
SPUTA							
(1) Cytological — (Malignant cells, Elastic fibres and fungi.		—	1	2	—	—	3
(2) Bacteriology — Cultures for Mycobacterium tuberculosis, and other micro-organisms).		9	10	89	—	—	108
(3) Direct exams. — (Ziehl-Neelsen stain for Myco. tuberculosis, Gram's stain for other micro-organisms).		25	16	618	—	—	659
FAECES							
(1) Cytological — (Red bes, leucocytes, epithelial cells, Food residues, crystals, ova, parasites, cysts).		19	23	4	—	—	46
(2) Biochemistry — (Occult blood, Fats estimations, Diastase).		7	29	78	—	—	114
(3) Bacteriology — (Cultures for Salmonella, Shigella and other pathogens).		789	63	81	—	—	933
(4) Direct exams. — (Ziehl-Neelsen stain for Myco. tuberculosis).		—	1	—	—	—	1
ORGANISMS ISOLATED FROM CULTURES from miscellaneous sources for Sensitivity to the various anti-biotics.		488	1,136	1,010	—	8	2,642
ORGANISMS FROM CULTURES for Autogenous Vaccine.		4	3	1	—	—	8
PLEURAL FLUID							
(1) Cytological — (Cells and differential counts, Malignant cells).		1	5	5	—	—	11
(2) Biochemistry — (Sp. Grav., Rivalta's test, Proteins content).		2	—	4	—	—	6
(3) Bacteriology — (Cultures for Mycobacterium tuberculosis and other micro-organisms).		—	—	2	2	—	4
(4) Direct exams. — (Ziehl-Neelsen stain for Myco. tuberculosis, Gram's stain for other micro-organisms).		—	—	2	2	—	4
GASTRIC CONTENTS							
(1) Biochemistry — (Fractional test meal, Alcohol test meal, Histamin test meal. — Determination of total acidity, Free HCl, — Presence of starch, pus cells, red bes, bile, altered blood).		2	596	240	—	—	838
(2) Bacteriology — (Gastric lavage — Culture for Myco. tuberculosis).		1	—	—	—	—	1
URINE							
(1) Cymtological — (Microscopical of deposit — cells, crystals, casts, etc.).		332	243	158	—	1	734
(2) Biochemistry — (Acetone, albumin, bile pigments, blood and derivatives, calcium, chlorides, diastase, diazo test, glucose, reaction — pH, phosphate, sp. grav., spectroscopic exams., urea, uric acid, 17-ketosteroids).		1,676	913	655	—	4	3,248
(3) Bacteriology — (Cultures for Escherichia coli, Myco. tuberculosis and other micro-organisms).		96	344	255	—	4	689
(4) Direct exams. — (Ziehl-Neelsen stain for Myco. tuberculosis).		1	12	3	—	—	16
CALCULUS							
Biochemistry — (Composition).		2	—	—	—	—	2
DARK GROUND ILLUMINATION for Tr. Pallidum.		1	—	—	—	—	1
SEMINAL FLUID — (Spermatozoa count, motility and morphology).		10	—	—	—	—	10
HAIR and SKIN SCRAPING — Fungi.		9	11	—	—	—	20
RAT for evidence of Plague.		6	—	—	—	—	6
INOCULATORY — SPECIMEN COLLECTED.		34	—	—	—	—	34
WATER		130	—	—	—	—	130
(1) Bacteriology — (Escherichia coli 44°C. 48 hours culture).		378	—	—	27	—	405
(2) Chemical — (Determination of chlorides, free chlorine, pH value, total solids, total hardness, temporary hardness, permanent hardness, alkalinity, Free CO2 ammonia salts, calcium, magnesium, sulphates).		466	—	—	27	—	493
LUBRICATING AND TRANSFORMER OILS							
(1) Chemical — (Total acidity, viscosity).		2	—	—	—	—	2
FOOD AND DRUGS ORDINANCE							
Mineral Water							
(1) Bacteriology — (Escherichi coli 44°C. 48 hours culture).		3	—	—	—	—	3
(2) Chemical — (Chlorides , presence of lead.)		4	—	—	—	—	4
IceCream and Reconstituted Milk							
(1) Methylene Blue Reduction Test.		80	—	—	—	—	80
Milk, Fresh, Evaporated, Condensed (Timed, carton and frozen).							
(1) Bacteriology — (Methylene Blue Reduction Test).							
(2) Chemical — (Determination of fat, total solids, non-fatty solids, moisture, density, tests for unheated milk and preservatives).		101	—	—	—	—	101
Brandy							
(1) Chemical — (Alcohol content, total solids, ash, detection of methyl alcohol, lead, arsenic).		50	—	—	—	—	50
Butter							
Lard							
Edible Oils							
Vinegar							
Red Pepper							
Sugar							
Wheat flour		44					44
Pea flour							
Ground almond							
Tinned Pork							
Tinned Shrimp Sauce							
Sausages, pork and beef							
Thick Bone & Vegetable Broth							
Clear Bone & Vegetable Broth		40	—	—	—	—	40
Chicken Broth							
Pure Yeast D.C.L.							
Food in connection with Food-poisoning cases: "Empanadilla", Vienna sausages, Turkey, "Bien me sabe", Ham rolls.							
(1) Bacteriology. (2) Culture for Salmonella, etc.		4	—	—	8	—	12
TOTALS							26,830

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

REPORT OF THE PATHOLOGIST-ANALYST, GIBRALTAR

During the year 1959 the Public Health Laboratories have continued to perform investigations related to preventive medicine as well as of a clinical pathological nature. In the latter group is included all work which come under the headings of Haematology, Blood Transfusion, Bacteriology, Histopathology and Chemical Pathology.

The public health investigations include all those of a Bacteriological and Serological nature on specimens received direct from the Medical Officer of Health or from Public Health Inspectors and Medical Practitioners working in close co-operation with him. In this respect samples of water from the General City supply as well as from private storage tanks, are investigated at short and regular intervals to ensure their freedom from bacteriological contamination and to ascertain their fitness for dietetic purposes in all respects. Similarly ice-creams and milk are assessed as to their bacteriological grading by the Methylene Blue Test as advised by the Medical Research Council.

A number of faeces from cases of gastro-enteritis submitted by General Practitioners for isolation of pathogenic organisms, continues to yield an assortment of the Shigellas which indicates varied sources of infection. The great majority of them must be assumed to come from territories which render further investigations not feasible. Generally it cannot be said that there has been any severe outbreak of gastro-enteritis, the cases being sporadic and having no definite seasonal incidence, and numerous contacts investigated have yielded negative results. All cases have responded well to treatment, giving three consecutive negative cultures after a single course of sulphonamides or other appropriate antibiotic.

An outbreak of severe acute food poisoning followed a well attended local wedding breakfast. A high proportion of the guests were affected, several of them suffering collapse and marked dehydration. A number of faeces of these cases were investigated but no known pathogenic organisms was isolated. It was however noted with interest that *Pseudomonas pyocyanea* was isolated in pure culture from a high proportion of the specimens submitted. By the next day when it had become obvious that an outbreak was under way; all the food remaining had been destroyed and no true samples were available. A domestic, however, had taken a few

croquettes and egg sandwiches home with him to share with his family and they all suffered severe symptoms. A sample of these two food items were investigated and from the egg paste in the sandwiches *Ps. pyocyanea* was grown in pure culture, from this, and as a result of careful questioning of both affected and unaffected guests, it would appear that the egg paste could have been the causative vehicle of this outbreak.

Adjoining is a list from which it can be appreciated that a large part of the investigations carried out by the laboratory are of a purely Clinical Pathological nature. The specimens are received from the several Hospitals and Clinics of the Medical Department of the Colonial Government as well as from private practitioners, and in fact the Laboratory covers the pathological field for the entire civilian population of Gibraltar.

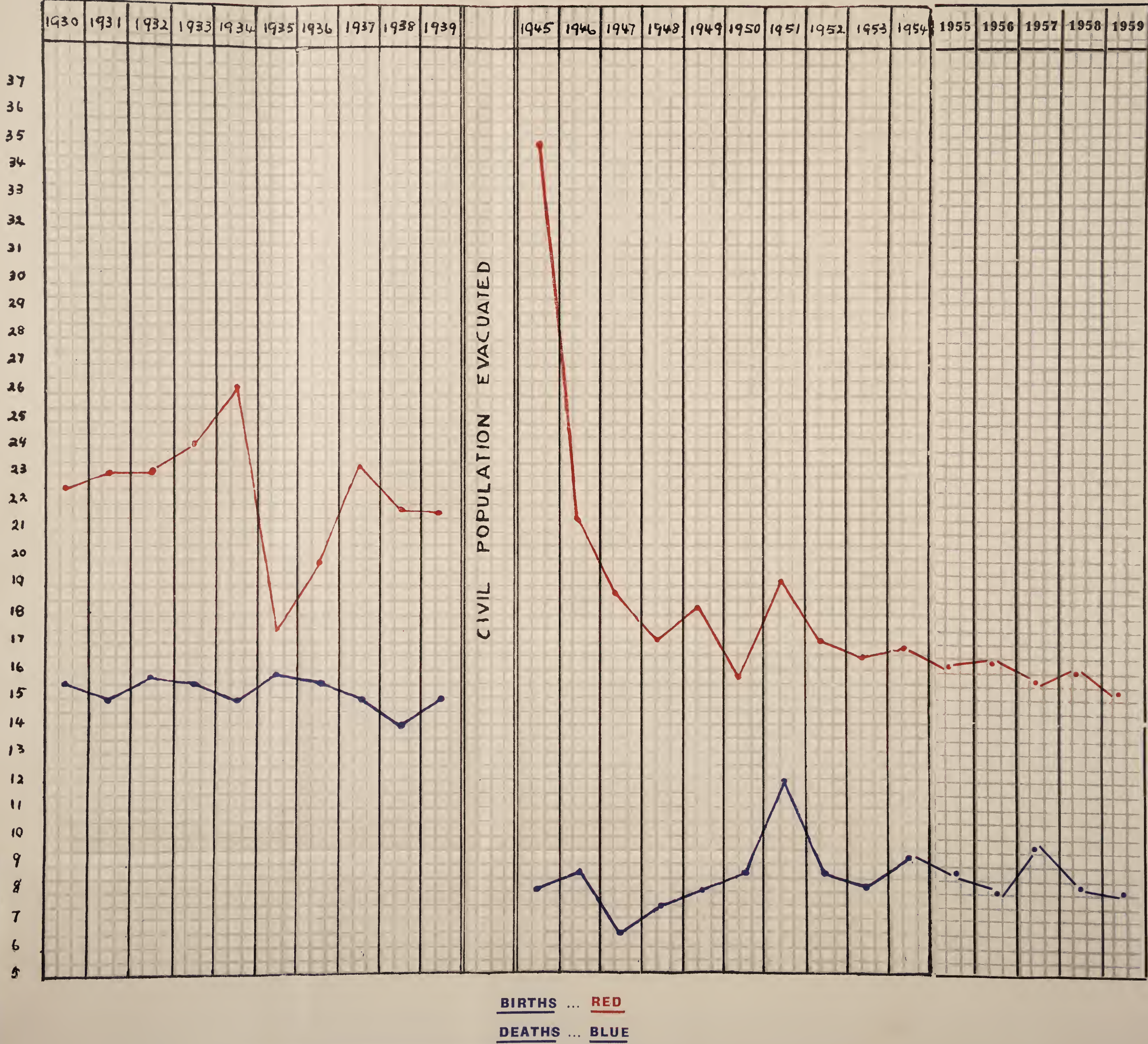
The activities of the Laboratory continue to develop and the number of investigations carried out annually shows a progressive increase. The total for this year being 26,830 as against 22,809 for last year and 15,844 in 1953.

The laboratory is also responsible for the analysis of foods, etc., to ascertain their compliance with the standards laid down by the Food and Drugs Ordinance. In this respect a number of assorted specimens were examined. With the exception of one sample of milk adulterated with water, they were found to be genuine.

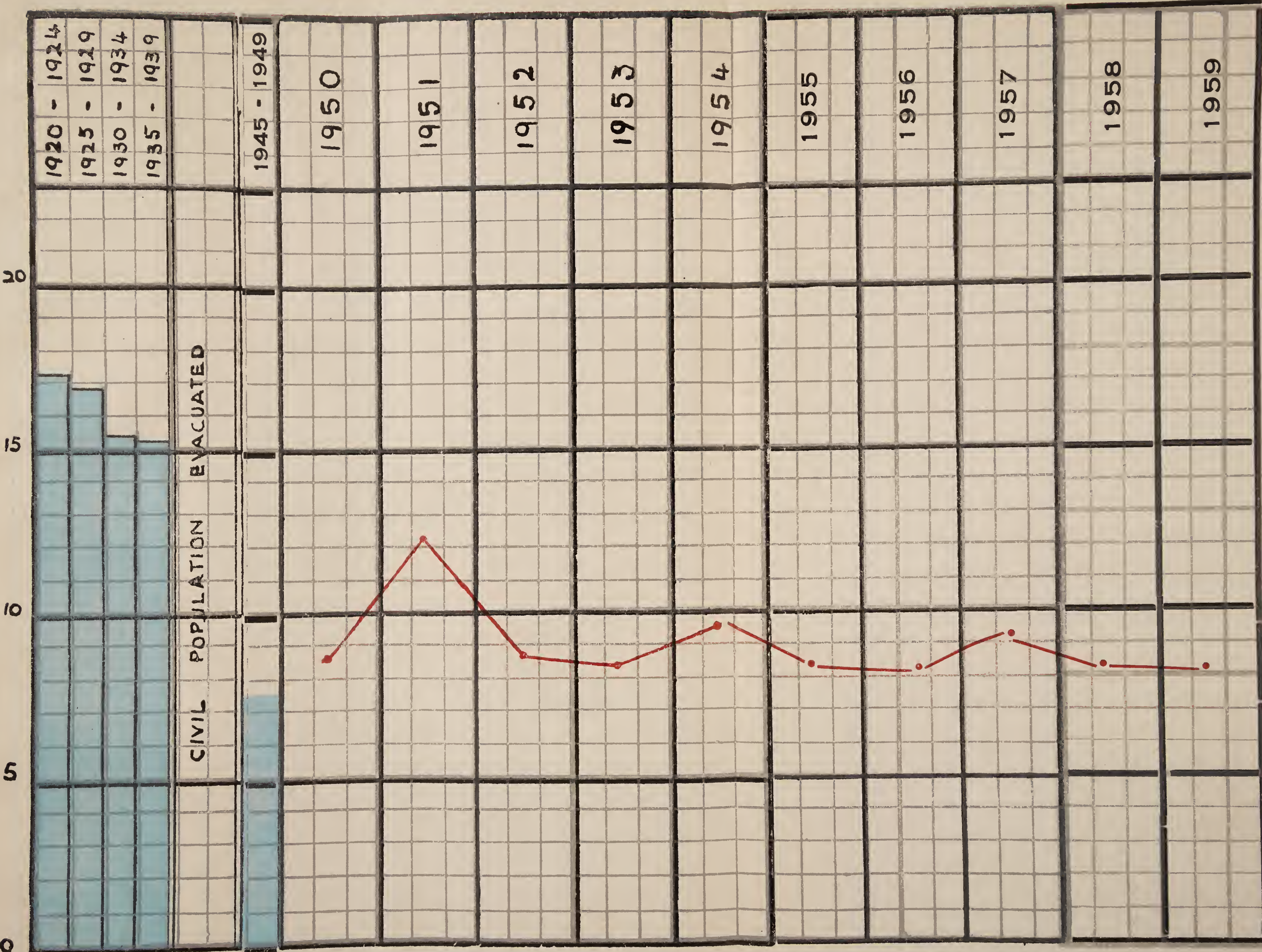
The laboratory is recognised by the World Health Organization as a centre for vaccination against Yellow Fever and thirty-four such vaccinations were carried out during the year.

E. A. IMOSI,
City Pathologist-Analyst,
Gibraltar.

COMPARATIVE CHART OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 CIVIL POPULATION
FOR THE PERIODS 1930-1939 & 1945-1959



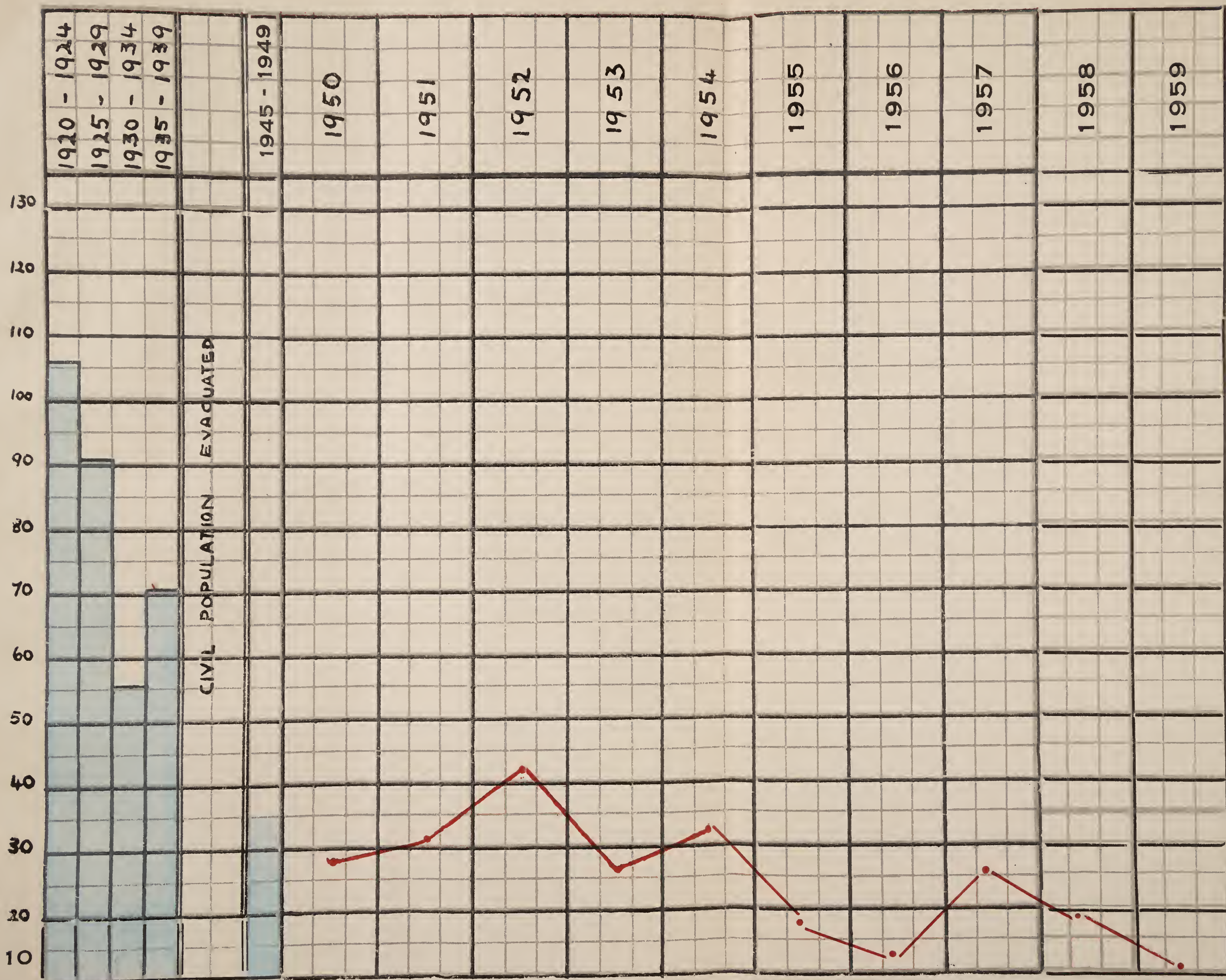
DEATH RATE PER 1,000 CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE PERIODS 1920-1939 & 1945-1959



AVERAGES

1920-1924	=	17.18	1930-1934	=	15.49	1945-1949	=	7.92
1925-1929	=	16.96	1925-1939	=	15.35	1950-1954	=	9.44
1920-1929	=	17.07	1930-1939	=	15.42	1945-1954	=	8.68
			1955-1959	=	8.59			

INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE PERIODS 1920-1939 & 1945-1959



AVERAGES

1920-1924 = 106.9

1925-1929 = 91.7

1930-1939 = 99.3

1930-1934 = 57.4

1935-1939 = 70.3

1930-1939 = 63.4

1955-1959 = 17.05

1945-1949 = 36.0

1950-1954 = 31.9

1945-1954 = 33.9

